

## Don't Tell Me of a Faith That Fears

*Iona Community: the Wild Goose Worship Group*

Don't tell me of a faith that fears  
to face the world around  
Don't dull my mind with fickle thoughts  
of grace without a ground

I need to know that God is real  
I need to know that Christ can feel  
The need to touch and love and heal  
the world, including me.

Don't speak of piety and prayers  
divorced from human need  
Don't talk of spirits without flesh  
like harvest without seed

Don't sate my soul with common sense  
distilled from ages past  
Alas for those who feel the world  
about to breathe its last

Don't set the cross before my eyes  
unless you tell the truth  
Of how the Lord who finds the lost  
was often found uncouth

So let the gospel come alive in actions great to see  
In imitation of the One whose love extends to me.

Prayer Leader:

*Carol Kandiko, CSA*

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## Let the Gospel Come Alive



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

*Be still and know that I am God!*

In that silence we listen for a new word.

God is present in all our lives.

God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

**Renew · Refresh · Refocus**

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**To Ponder:** Bryan Stevenson, a civil-rights lawyer and the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human-rights organization that challenges convictions, advocates for criminal-justice reform and racial justice, and created the National Memorial for Peace

We need to reckon with our history of racial injustice. I think everything we are seeing is a symptom of a larger disease. We have never honestly addressed all the damage that was done during the two and a half centuries that we enslaved black people. The great evil of American slavery wasn't the involuntary servitude; it was the fiction that black people aren't as good as white people, and aren't the equals of white people, and are less evolved, less human, less capable, less worthy, less deserving than white people.

That ideology of white supremacy was necessary to justify enslavement, and it is the legacy of slavery that we haven't acknowledged. This is why I have argued that slavery didn't end in 1865; it evolved. ...

Even the abolitionists, many of whom fought to end slavery, didn't believe in racial equality. ...

We need people to vote, we need people to engage in policy reform and political reform, we need people to not tolerate the rhetoric of fear and anger that so many of our elected officials use to sustain power. We need the cultural environments in the workplace to shift.

**Reading:** St. Thomas Aquinas  
in Love Poems from God by Daniel Ladinsky

I said to God, "Let me love you."  
And He replied, "Which part?"

All of you, all of you," I said.

"Dear," God spoke, "you are as a mouse  
wanting to impregnate a tiger who is not even in heat.  
It is a feat way beyond your courage and strength,  
You would run from me  
if I removed my mask.."

I said to God again,

"Beloved, I need to love you—every aspect, every pore."

And this time God said,

"There is a hideous blemish on my body,  
though it is such an infinitesimal part of my Being—  
could you kiss that if it were revealed?"

"I will try, Lord, I will try."

And then God said,

"That blemish is all the hatred and  
cruelty in this  
world."

Sharing...  
a word...  
a phrase...  
a reflection...