

## The Love of God Comes Close

Iona Community: the Wild Goose Worship Group

The love of God comes close Where stands an open door  
To let the stranger in, To mingle rich and poor:  
The love of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The peace of God comes close To those caught in the storm,  
Forgoing lives of ease To ease the lives forlorn:  
The peace of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The joy of God comes close Where faith encounters fears,  
Where heights and depths of life  
Are found through smiles and tears:  
The joy of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The grace of God comes close To those whose grace is spent,  
When hearts are tired or sore And hope is bruised or bent:  
The grace of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

The Son of God comes close Where people praise his name,  
Where bread and wine are blest And shared, as when he came:  
The Son of God is here to stay  
Embracing those who walk his way.

*Words: John L Bell & Graham Maule (c) 1988, 1997  
WGRG, Iona Community, G2 3DH*

Prayer Leader:

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## The Simple Joy of Divine Union



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: Richard Rohr, Just This

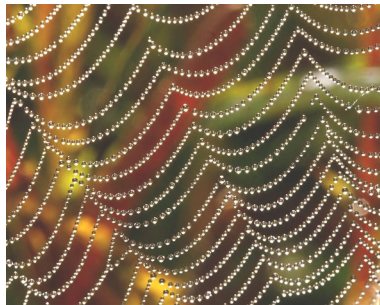
God's goal is always union, which is very different from any private perfection (which is merely a goal of the small ego).

Life lived fully and honestly inevitably involves both joy and suffering, a path of descent, doubt, and lots of little deaths that teach us to let go of our artificially created self and to live in the simple joy of divine union—and *voilà*, the True Self stands revealed, fully present and accounted for.

Our carefully constructed ego container must gradually crack open, as we realize that we are not separate from God, from others, or from our true selves. ...

We are never perfectly whole, but the acceptance of that lack of wholeness is precisely what we mean by holiness, or accepting the “whole” of reality. When we are capable of non-dualistic thinking (contemplation), we can even forgive and accept our imperfections and those of all the world.

Divine perfection is precisely the ability to include and forgive all imperfection.



## Reading: Matthew Fox in Meditations with Meister Eckhart

Love  
will never be anywhere  
except where equality and unity are.

Between a master and his servant  
there is no peace  
for there is no real equality.

And there can be no love  
where love does not find equality  
or is not busy creating equality.

Nor is there any pleasure without equality.  
Practice equality in human society.

Learn to love, esteem, consider all people  
like yourself.

What happens to another,  
be it bad or good, pain or joy,  
ought to be as if it happened to you.

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