

## *God, Beyond All Names*

Bernadette Farrell

God, beyond our dreams, you have stirred in us a memory,  
You have placed your powerful spirit  
in the hearts of humankind.

All around us, we have known you;  
All creation lives to hold you,  
In our living and our dying  
We are bringing you to birth.

God, beyond all names, you have made us in your image,  
We are like you, we reflect you,  
we are woman, we are man.

God, beyond all words, all creation tells your story,  
You have shaken with our laughter,  
you have trembled with our tears.

God, beyond all time, you are laboring within us;  
We are moving, we are changing,  
in your spirit ever new.

God of tender care, you have cradled us in goodness,  
You have mothered us in wholeness,  
you have loved us into birth.

Prayer Leader:  
Cheryl Keehner, CSA  
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## WAKE UP!



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.

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## To Ponder

A reflection by Cheryl Keehner, CSA

During Advent, we hear prophets from Scripture calling out each day to real people in a real world. They warn their contemporaries what will happen if they don't change. They give comfort and encouragement to those who take them seriously, and work at changing. John the Baptist calls out to all who will listen to him "prepare the way of the Lord." And Jesus, who many consider a prophet, assures his followers that they can do the same things he did, and even more.

Once we *wake up*, we notice that awesome things are happening in our world. Day by day people are given chances to rise again. We witness the dedication of first responders in their efforts to combat the CORONA VIRUS. Some of their patients are healed and others comforted in the loss of a loved one. We watch our neighbors feeding the hungry, visiting the lonely, clothing the homeless. People forgive each other. We ourselves are set free from the past and are given a chance to rise again.

Advent calls us to *wake up*, open our eyes, and see and listen for signs that Jesus continues to live in our midst. Who needs reassurance and support in our society? How can we address the social issues of our day? How do we stand with those whose needs for peace and justice are not being met? How do we welcome strangers?

When others hear the sound of our voices, are they moved to joy? Do they know us as Christ-bearers? Do we bring them Good News? Do we ourselves wake them up?

## Reading

Nancy Merrill, *Psalms for Praying*

(selected verses from Psalm 33)

Rejoice in the Beloved all you holy ones.  
Praise is the grace of the loving.  
Give praise with dances and leaps.  
Sing a new song and shout with joyful hearts

May everyone stand in awe of Love,  
For when the Beloved speaks,  
it comes to pass.  
As Love's way guides and directs,  
thus it stands.

Blessed are all who respond to Love's way,  
For the Beloved dwells in every heart that is  
open and receptive.

Into our hands, into our hearts,  
the Beloved surrenders,  
that we might do with Love what we will.

## Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...