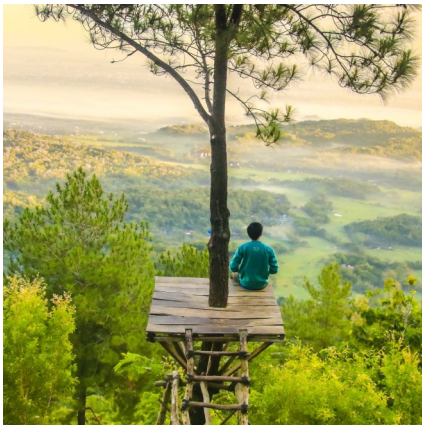


Song/Chant:

Listen, Listen, Listen” by Shakti Deva

Listen, Listen, Listen to my heart’s song.
Listen, listen, listen to my heart’s song.

I will never forget the, I will never forsake thee.
I will never forget thee, I will never forsake thee.



Prayer Leader

Ginny May Drotar

4 / 13 / 2021

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Welcome the Stranger



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

Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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To Ponder: Ginny May Drotar

Joyce Rupp says in her book *Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self*: “How we welcome others is how we welcome God.” Can you open yourself to the possibility that God indwells you, and so too every person and thing you meet? The truth is that you only encounter God as openly as you encounter others. Jesus spoke of a question that people will ask at the end of time: ‘When was it that we saw you and welcomed you?’ He replied ‘Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ There are people you welcome easily and those for whom you need to take a deep breath to reorient your heart in order to greet them as Christ. They all hold the presence of the Christ in themselves.

A wise Arabic adage urges us to feed the stranger who comes to our door for at least three days before asking anything about them. ‘In this, we honor the Divine Guest’. The letter to the Hebrews advises: ‘Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some of us have entertained angels without knowing it.’

Strangers are those outside the home of our heart whom we consider alien to our space. We are called to set aside estrangement, fear, and hostility and do our best to approach the ‘stranger’ as one united with God within us. For one hour or one day, or maybe even for the rest of life, let us try seeing each person we encounter as the Christ who lives within.

Reading: Joyce Rupp *Open the Door*

Divine Guest,

I lovingly welcome you

With the openness of my entire being

I desire to receive people who are strangers

With this same spirit of graciousness.

Free my mind when it locks out others.

Disarm my heart of any armor it wears.

I open the door of my heart to you.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...