

Gather Us In Marty Haugen

Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in the blind and the lame.
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery;
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in the proud and the strong,
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven light years away,
But here in this place the new light is shining.
Now is the Kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever.
Gather us in and make us your own
Gather us in all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer Leader:
Cheryl Keehner, CSA
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So What's Heaven For?



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:

Margaret Silf

Life on this earth can often be hard and painful.

Maybe because of this we cherish some kind of heaven
where all will be well, in some hoped-for life to come.

And so, traditionally, if a Christian were asked
where their life is headed, they would probably say “heaven.”

Life on earth becomes merely a matter
of surviving and coping until something better appears beyond
the horizon. Yet the mystics, past
and present remind us that heaven is here and now, and not
some reward given for a life well-lived.

Reading: *Catching up with Jesus* Diarmuid O' Murchu

You wait for a better world.
What's wrong with the one you have?
You wait for a liberator
To reproach your inner slave.
You wait to see the face of God: it's staring you in the eyes.
You wait for a better future and you miss today's surprise.

The waiting is the problem,
To which you love to cling.
It's all about the power games.
And the delusions that they bring.
The messianic figure – long before you ever knew
Irrupted in creation, in the Spirit's vivid hue.

And the Spirit moves in freedom
Beyond the waiting and the now.
And the Spirit loves relating
When we don't control the “how.”
Don't waste your time in waiting for some God to intervene.
For God is never absent from creations' epic scene.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...