

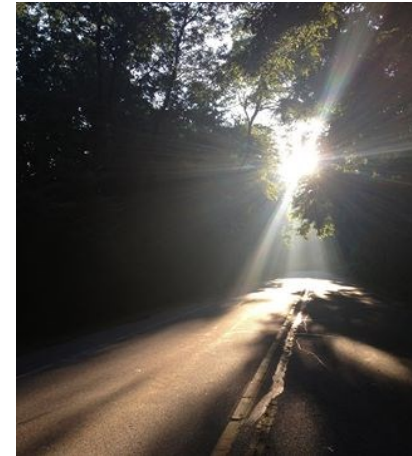
Cinema Paradiso instrumental



Prayer Leader:
Betsy Nero
2/1/2022

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God is Everlasting Light



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: from Tom Roberts,
Joan Chittister: Her Journey from Certainty to Faith

Humility begins with 'what the ancients call the fear of God,' and what today we understand as 'the sense of God, the awe of God, the awareness of God, the consciousness of the presence of God always before our eyes, here and now, this moment in this place, in you, and in the people next to us.'

'I have become sure that if all I know about God is that my God is the fullness of life and the consummation of hope, the light on the way and light at the end, I will live my life in the consciousness of God and goodness everywhere. Obscure at times? Yes, but never wholly lacking...I am moving in my heart from God as trophy to be won or a master, however benign, to be pacified, to God as cosmic unity and everlasting light.'

In the Benedictine tradition the first step toward union with God is knowing you already have God. The first degree of humility is to keep the presence of God always in mind. You already enjoy God. You're living God right now. You've been living there all your lives, the life that is God. God is here in us now. The Rule of Benedict says don't forget it. If you start by forgetting that, you'll get nowhere else. The God you seek is already here.'

Reading: from Nan C. Merrill, *Prayer of Praise*
A Paraphrase of Psalm 112

Praises be to You, O Gracious One!

Blessed are those who reverence the Holy One,
who greatly delight in the Word! For they dwell with Love,
their children will learn of peace and justice.

Light penetrates the darkness for those who face their fears;
Love stands by them with mercy and forgiveness.
It goes well for those who are loving and kind,
who live their days with justice and integrity.

They become co-creators with the Divine One;
they bless the world with their presence.
In times of trouble, they know not fear; their hearts are firm,
trusting in your Loving Companion Presence.

Yes, their hearts are steady, they are not afraid,
even their enemies are blessed by their love.

They are generous and give freely;
the needy are offered shelter and food;
justice and mercy make their home there;
and their righteousness endures forever.

The unloving are witness to this;
who knows when the seed will find a fertile heart?
The fruits of those who know Love are blessing to all!

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...