

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me, and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.

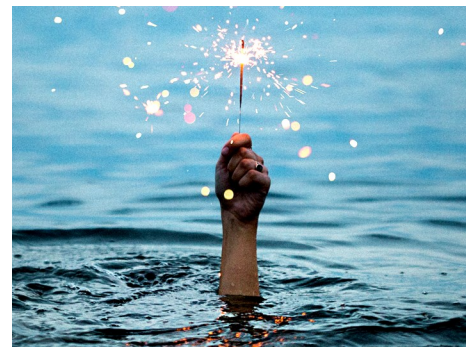
I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water: thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk
Till trav'ling days are done.

Prayer Leader:
Mary Beth Marquard, HM
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Renew the Divine Spark



Kristopher Rolier—Unsplash



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: Jennifer Christ
Renew the Divine Spark

Recently I read a historical novel about three children of revolutionaries who were sent to Mexico during the Spanish Civil War. They lived in deplorable, abusive conditions in state-run orphanages. Back in Spain, their father was shot, and their mother imprisoned. In the epilogue, we learn of the children's later lives: how they became educated, raised families and did important work in the world. I was deeply moved by their resilience and their ability, after such childhood trauma, to choose life and love and to move forward. The lives of these three children, though fiction, were based on real incidents and factual details, which the author wove together to create this moving story.

When we are struggling, it is advantageous to call out to God to renew the divine spark within us all that allows us to carry on. Sometimes we generously keep vigil for others who have tough life assignments. Our prayers can allow them to rest while we pray them into steadfastness.

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

READING: Edward Hays
Adapted from Psalm for a Stalled Heart

My heart is cold today, O God.
I feel no burning desire,
no zeal to pray or be with you.
My heart is frozen by the chill of emptiness —
sluggish and stalled.

Send forth your Spirit
to revive my heart.
Spark it with a relish for service,
with a longing to pray.

May I seek to love and serve you,
even when my wintery heart
declines to dance
with springtime grace.

And may my desire
to be your flame of warmth and love
spark other stalled souls
to come alive, aflame in you.



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