Song

Breath of Heaven by Amy Grant

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWo3qlqyW1c

I have traveled many moonless nights Cold and weary with a babe inside And I wonder what I've done Holy Father, You have come And chosen me now to carry Your Son

I am waiting in a silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear
In a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now

Chorus

Breath of Heaven, hold me together Be forever near me, breath of Heaven Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness Pour over me Your holiness for You are holy Breath of Heaven

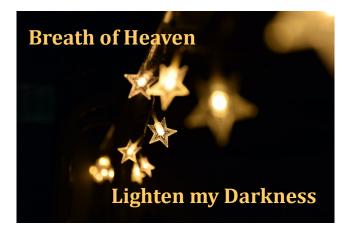
Do you wonder as you watch my face If a wiser one should have had my place? But I offer all I am For the mercy of Your plan Help me be strong, help me be, help me

Chorus

Prayer Leader:

Syndie Eardly 10/11-12/2022

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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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An Interfaith Ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine

To Ponder

Mary, Perfect Image of Fruitfulness By Richard Rohr

We tend to manage life more than just live it. We are trained to be managers, to organize life, to make things happen. That is what built our culture. It is not all bad, but if you transfer that to the spiritual life, it is pure heresy. It is not gospel.

If Mary was trustfully carrying Jesus during this time, it is because she knew how to receive spiritual gifts, in fact *the* spiritual gift. She is the perfect image of how fertility and fruitfulness break into this world.

We can't manage, maneuver or manipulate spiritual energy. It is a matter of letting go and receiving what is being given freely. It is the gradual emptying of our attachment to our small self so that there is room for a new conception. There must be some displacement before there can be any new re-placement.

Mary is the archetype of such self-displacement and surrender. If Jesus is the symbol of the gift itself and how God gives the gift, then Mary is the symbol of how the gift is received and treasured. Whatever God gives is always experienced as totally unearned grace and never as a reward or a merit badge.

There is no mention of any moral worthiness, achievement or preparedness in Mary, only humble trust and surrender. She gives us all, therefore, a bottomless hope in our own little state. If we ourselves try to manage God or manufacture our own worthiness by any performance principle whatsoever, we will never bring forth the Christ but only ourselves. Mary does not manage, fix, control or perform in any way. She just says "Yes!" and brings forth the abundance that Isaiah promises.

Reading

Psalm 133

Teach us obedience, Lord In every part of our lives

Ears to hear your word
Hands to do your work
Feet to walk your path
A heart for all your people
A mouth to shout your praise
A childlike faith
Humility
Confidence
That says
To the possible
And the impossible

"I am the Lord's servant May it be to me as you have said."

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...