

## *Take Me As I Am* by Common Hymnal

I come into your presence,  
and I don't fear rejection  
'Cause you take me as I am  
You're not asking for perfection

I come into your presence,  
and I don't fear rejection  
'Cause you take me as I am  
You're not asking for perfection

With open wide spread arms,  
you're here to give affection  
Yes, you are

But with open wide spread arms,  
you're here to give affection  
But with open wide spread arms,  
you're here to give affection

But with open wide spread arms  
Take me, take me as I am  
Lying at your feet again

Oh oh, take me, take me as I am  
Lying at your feet again

Prayer Leader:

**Ginny Drotar**

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## Ordinary Enlightenment



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: Emilia Elisabet Lahti, *The Unsung Beauty of Ordinary enlightenment*

In an old lecture by Ram Dass, a onetime Harvard professor turned spiritual seeker and teacher, he tells the story of how, years into his spiritual awakening, he was struggling with a feeling of being stuck “between heaven and earth.” He yearned to get even closer to God, but then an imaginary teacher within himself set him straight. The inner commentator said, “Ram, you are human, right? So why don’t you take the curriculum.”

The temptation with spiritual work for many of us is to get carried away with the heavens. We want to speed to holier realms and get away from having to deal with the sticky pettiness of being human. The trouble is that by doing so, we separate ourselves from the most potent (and toughest) paths to what we like to call enlightenment.

Working through one’s character, blind spots, and finding inner sobriety by learning to love —or perhaps to apologize—when all we want to do is close off and leave the scene, is the true and most humbling test for our “holiness.” To attend to the curriculum of real-life enlightenment is a time-tested crucible for forging character and learning to be a human.

It is also the way to find God within our very being.

## Reading: Ginny Drotar, *Ordinary Enlightenment Reprise*

To the God Within this Moment

I bring myself as I am — not dressed up wearing new shoes and a pressed shirt—but me as I am — wrinkled pants, holes in my socks, a furrow on my brow.

You tell me, put down the prayer beads, the holy chalice, masks hiding what Wholeness can already see. Open the book of your life and begin to read it.

Especially the underlined passages when you learned what it meant to be alive and human, the stars and question marks in the margins of your days, the dog-eared pages of the dark nights that still don’t make sense.

Don’t try to understand. Your life is a mystery. Just share it with the holy Listener, and when the wind blows through the open window and rustles the curtains, feel your aliveness.

Pause to hear the smallest of mighty Voices gently calling you to shed the tears you hide from the world. Calling you to begin that song you want to sing for others.

To dance with your arms wide open as you go into the world. Listen to the Holy Listener listening to you and know that you are loved just as you are.

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