

## If I Can Dream, Elvis Presley

There must be lights burning brighter somewhere  
Got to be birds flying higher in a sky more blue  
If I can dream of a better land  
Where all my brothers walk hand in hand  
Tell me why, oh why, oh why can't my dream come true    Oh why

There must be peace and understanding sometime  
Strong winds of promise that will blow away all the doubt and fear  
If I can dream of a warmer sun  
Where hope keeps shining on everyone  
Tell me why, oh why, oh why won't that sun appear

We're lost in a cloud With too much rain  
We're trapped in a world That's troubled with pain  
But as long as a man Has the strength to dream  
He can redeem his soul and fly

Deep in my heart there's a trembling question  
Still I am sure that the answer, answer's gonna come somehow  
Out there in the dark, there's a beckoning candle, yeah  
And while I can think, while I can walk  
While I can stand, while I can talk  
While I can dream  
Oh, please let my dream  
Come true  
Right now  
Let it come true right now  
Oh yeah

Prayer Leader:

**Dean Presson**

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**They go inside a building  
to talk to their god.  
We go out into the natural world — and  
our Creator speaks to us.**



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

**To Ponder:** Howard Schwartz,  
*Gabriel's Palace: Jewish Mystical Tales*

Reb Nachman was once traveling with his Hasidim by carriage, and as it grew dark they came to an inn, where they spent the night. During the night Reb Nachman began to cry out loudly in his sleep, waking up everyone in the inn, all of whom came running to see what had happened.

When he awoke, the first thing Reb Nachman did was to take out a book he had brought with him. Then he closed his eyes and opened the book and pointed to a passage. And there it was written  
*"Cutting down a tree before its time is like killing a soul."*

Then Reb Nachman asked the innkeeper if the walls of that inn had been built out of saplings cut down before their time. The innkeeper admitted that this was true, but how did the rabbi know?

And Reb Nachman said: "All night I dreamed I was surrounded by the bodies of those who had been murdered. I was very frightened. Now I know that it was the souls of the trees that cried out to me.

Reminders:

Come on time or **better yet, come early!**  
Honor the silence  
Share briefly from personal experience  
Listen to each other  
Discussion (cross talk) is for after the hour of prayer

**Reading:** Forrest Carter,  
*The Education of Little Tree*

"The sun broke through behind us and chased the fog into the deeps, searching shade. Willow John was looking west, across the wild mountains and deep hollows, as far as you could see; toward the Nations. Granpa went to the lodge and come back with Willow John's long knife. He put it in his hand. Willow John raised the knife and pointed to an old fir-pine that was bent and twisted.

He said, "When I have gone, put the body there, close to her. She has dropped many young and warmed me and sheltered me. It will be good. The food will give her two more seasons."

"We will," Granpa said.

"Tell Bee," Willow John whispered, "it will be better next time."

"I will," Granpa said."

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