

Prayer of Thomas Merton Kate Campbell

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think that I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe
that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire
in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do
anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this
you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing
about it.
Therefore will I trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear,
for you are ever near me and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gePQ3B3f8b8>

Prayer Leader:

Ginny Drotar
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Openness to Love



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: **Thomas Merton**
from *The Monastic Journey*

God seeks Himself in us, and the aridity and sorrow of our heart is the sorrow of God who is not known to us, who cannot yet find Himself in us because we do not dare to believe or trust the incredible truth that He could live in us, and live there out of choice, out of preference. But indeed we exist solely for this, to be the place He has chosen for His presence, His manifestation in the world, His epiphany. But we make all this dark and inglorious because we fail to believe it. It is not that we hate God, rather that we hate ourselves, despair of ourselves. If we once began to recognize, humbly but truly, the real value of our own Self, we would see that this value was the sign of God in our being, the signature of God upon our being. Fortunately, the love of our fellow man is given us as the way of realizing this. For the love of our brother, our sister, our beloved, our spouse, our child, is there to see with the clarity of God Himself that we are good. It is the love of my lover, my brother or my child that sees God in me, makes credible to myself in me. And it is my love for my lover, my child, my brother, that enables me to show God to him or her in myself or herself. Love is the epiphany of God in our poverty. The contemplative life is then the search for peace not in an abstract exclusion of all outside reality, not in barren negative closing of the senses upon the world, but in the openness of love."

Reading: **Macrina Wiederkehr**
"The Song of the Seed"

O God of Loveliness, O God of Love,
Your invitation to love is overwhelming.
I feel too often poor in love, yet rich in longing.
Perhaps I will finally find the loving in the longing.
Lover of my soul,
Make your home in the center of my being.
On the throne of my heart.
Your lonely, lovely creature
Longs to live in love; teach her.

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

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