

June 4, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

ENLIGHTEN OUR HEARTS

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Acclamation Before Today's Gospel

*May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
that we may know what is the hope
that belongs to his call.*

EPHESIANS 1:17-18

Reflection

The acclamation today stirs up memories of God's self-revelation throughout my life. The prayer of hindsight is a wonderful teacher. I think it began in the gracious, warm-hearted love of my parents that companioned me in the ups and downs, surges and stumbles of growing up in a family with three younger siblings. We went to church together on Sundays and went to Catholic elementary school. God was part and parcel of growing up. My mother prayed

with us every night until we were in middle school and the habit well formed. God as God, and as Jesus, was a tangible reality and grew into a relationship.

Over the many years since, “the hope that belongs to [God’s] call” has waxed and waned, yet never disappeared. As I encountered life’s realities of joy and sorrow, close relationships, and casual acquaintances, as well as the loss of friends and family, the wrestling with emotions and human struggles toward growth, learning, mistakes, and do-overs, gradually the “eyes of my heart” have been opened again and again to God with me.

For me the hope has become a realization of God’s abiding presence and unconditional love, ever increasing desire to know God more intimately, and knowing the power of forgiveness and reconciliation that has sustained me throughout my life. In this I am blessed, for I have come to know God within me.

Presence is discovered in all kinds of relationships over the years. God has been found in many disguises as I have learned to discern the goodness and woundedness within myself and others. Gradually I have come to embrace the stark and startling reality of life that I had hoped would be different. No one is exempt and still God loves each person uniquely, desires their good, seeks to be known and embraced.

Enlightenment often comes at the cost of struggle, emotional upheaval and consolation. It is all part of being human and growing into one’s potential that is never complete. God is my constant companion. Beauty of creation, simple pleasures, delights, and joys of living have served to open my heart to God’s surprises and encounters, too.

Every moment holds the potential to reveal God and to draw me close to the Holy One. It is in living life fully and reflecting on one’s whole experience -- in light, through darkness, and in the valley of the ordinary -- that God’s abiding presence is known, and we are drawn into the hope that belongs to God’s call.



Moon in the Starry Night Sky

Photo by Felipe Barboza

For Pondering

- What is your earliest memory of God's presence?
- What lived experiences have nurtured your relationship with God?
- What is "the hope of God's call" for you?

For Prayer

*Loving and gracious God,
thank you for all the wondrous ways I have come to know
your companioning presence.*

*Times of light and grace most easily reveal you with me.
Yet, thank you for the gift of hindsight that enables me to know you with me
in the darkness and times of struggle, too.*

*You are my constant companion, gifting me with what I need
to grow into my full potential.*

*I rejoice and give thanks for you and your ways of love within me.
Amen.*

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