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Altars in the World

8:45 a.m. + August 15, 2021

*The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw –*

*and knew I saw – all things in God and God in all things.*

~ Mechtild of Magdeburg.

Song of the Presence “***Quiet My Heart”***

***Hear in the silence the whispers of memory,***

***Be still and listen, be still and wait.***

***Wait for the voice that once echoed through Eden,***

***That speaks affirmation, that longs to create.***

***The voice in the garden, the voice in the cloud,***

***The voice in the temple, still speaks aloud.***

***Quiet my heart, till I can hear.***

***There are distractions ever near.***

***Quiet my heart, help me discern,***

***What are the lessons I must learn.***

***Quiet my heart.***

***Help me awaken and rise up from slumber,***

***Shake off the darkness, shine with your light.***

***Willing to listen, to learn, and to follow.***

***To love with your passion, to see with your sight.***

***Help me be watchful for where I’m asleep.***

***Attentive and mindful. God come and speak!***

Offering Ourselves

Song of the Presence “***Quiet My Heart”***

***Quiet my heart, till I can hear.***

***There are distractions ever near.***

***Quiet my heart, help me discern,***

***What are the lessons I must learn.***

***Quiet my heart.***

Sitting With Scripture Genesis 28:10-19

*Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said,*

*“I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”*

*Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the House of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Beth-el, meaning “House of God.”*

Seeking Beth-el ***“Come and Find the Quiet Center”***

***Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,***

***Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed.***

***Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see,***

***All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.***

***Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace.***

***God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base.***

***Making space within our thinking, lifting eyes to show the sun,***

***Raising courage when we’re shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.***

Special Places

God in Every Place ***“Be Still”***

***Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.***

***Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.***

***In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.***

***Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.***

Ordinary Places

Trusting God’s Guidance ***“You Lead Me Home”***

***I trust you have guided the road that I travel,***

***Although I have been unaware.***

***So I’ll keep believing though life may unravel,***

***Yes I will choose faith amid fear.***

***For there is a place that I long to return to,***

***That calms my desire to roam.***

***And so as I journey it’s you that I turn to,***

***Believing you’re leading me home.***

***You lead me home, by paths unknown.***

***You lead me home by ways unfamiliar.***

***Wherever I turn, still you are there,***

***A compassionate friend when I choose to stray,***

***Leading me home by another way.***

Awakening to the Beloved ***from*** ***Psalm 17, Psalms for Praying***

*Listen to my heart, O Love Divine.*

*Be Thou my eyes that I may see with clarity.*

*Be Thou my feet that I may walk along your paths;*

*that I may be a benevolent presence on life’s highway.*

*Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Love Divine.*

*You walk beside me giving me strength to face the fears that dwell within.*

*For I shall behold your face in Truth.*

*When I am fully awake,*

*I shall dwell in the house of love and peace and joy!*

Song of the Presence ***“When I Awake I Am Still With You”***

***When I awake I am still with You.***

***When I awake I am still with You.***

***In You I live.***

***In You I move.***

***In You I find my being.***

Resting in the Silence

During these few minutes of silence, simply rest in God’s abiding and loving presence in this moment. Simply be here now. Descend into this silence. There is nothing you need to do. Just let go. Relax. Sense your body. Breathe deeply. If it helps, use a sacred word to help you descend into this silence (such as Beloved, Mercy, Abba, Jesus, or Spirit) or a breath prayer, such as “Here” (inhale) “I am” (exhale).

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Communion

Receiving a Good Word

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. Please register your attendance.*

*If you are worshipping online, please text the word* ***center*** *to 75787.*

*If you are worshipping in person, please text the word* ***chapel*** *to 75787.*

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