



## *Altars in the World*

8:45 a.m. + September 12, 2021

*Why, when God's world is so big,  
did you fall asleep in a prison of all places?  
~ Jelaluddin Rumi*

### Surrounded by Beauty

*With beauty behind me I walk,  
With beauty before me I walk.  
Today as I wander, I journey in goodness.  
Seeking out beauty I walk.  
With beauty below me I walk,  
With beauty above me I walk.  
Today as I travel a trail of contentment,  
With calm assurance I walk.  
That all may be beauty I walk.*

### **"I Walk"**

*based on a Diné (Navajo) Prayer*

### Remembering Journeys Taken

#### Silently Offering our Wandering

*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 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 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 with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

*Thomas Merton*

## Called into the Wilderness

*"I Desire to Please You"*

Response: *I desire to please you.  
I desire to go where you lead.  
I can't know for certain,  
But this is my desire.*

*The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

*Genesis 12:1*

*And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.*

*Mark 1:12-13*

### *Response*

*He led his people through the wilderness!  
His tender love for us continues on forever!*

*Psalms 136:16*

*O God of my life, I'm lovesick for you in this weary wilderness.  
I thirst with the deepest longings to love you more,  
with cravings in my heart that can't be described.  
Such yearning grips my soul for you, my God!*

*Psalms 63:1*

### *Response*

## Meditation

### The Gift of Not Knowing

*"I Desire to Please You"*

*I desire to please you.  
I desire to go where you lead.  
I can't know for certain,  
But this is my desire.*

*I don't know where I'm going,  
Where this pathway will lead.  
And I've no way of knowing where it ends.  
In my doubt and confusion,  
When I'm tempted to fear.  
I will not be discouraged, I know you are there.*

*I desire to please you...*

## 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).

Surrendering Ourselves

*"Suscipe (Receive)"*

*Suscipe, suscipe.  
Suscipe, suscipe.  
All I am, all I have.  
You've given all into my care:  
Every single thought, every choice I make,  
The freedoms I possess, come fill them all with love.  
Please receive all I am.  
As I receive all that you are.  
I return to you all that I hold dear,  
To use as you desire, for I believe in this:*

*Your grace, your love, is all that I need.  
Your love, your grace, is enough for me.*

Communion

Praying for Those Who Wander

Offering a Song of Encouragement

*"Let Mystery Live in You"*

*Let mystery live in you.  
Be content to be in the unknown.  
God is greater than all you see.  
Let mystery live, let mystery live,  
Let mystery live in you.*

*Let mystery live in you.  
Let your questions come guide you along.  
Love sees more than the mind can know.  
Let mystery live, let mystery live,  
Let mystery live in you.*

*I will walk the blind by an unknown way and guide them on paths they've never traveled.  
I will smooth their difficult road and make their dark mysteries bright with light.  
These are things I will do for them, for I will never abandon my beloved ones.*

**Isaiah 42:16**

*Let mystery live in you.  
As you wander a path you can't see.  
You cannot journey outside of God.  
Let mystery live, let mystery live,  
Let mystery live in you.*

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.*

*For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit:  
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