

LISTENING ALONGSIDE



ECHOING CHRIST

Lenten Devotions 2017

**Thursday,
March 9, 2017**

We need to find God.
He cannot be found in noise and restlessness.
God is the friend of silence.

See how nature,
trees, flowers, grass,
grow in silence.

See the stars, the moon and sun,
how they move in silence.
The more we receive in silent prayer,
the more we can give in our active life.

We need silence to be able to touch souls.

The essential thing is not what we say,
but what God says
to us and through us.

All our words will be useless
unless they come from within.
Words which do not give the light of Christ
increase the darkness.

-Mother Teresa

Prayer

In the face of all that we know of you, O Lord, it seems that it should be easy to believe. But we confess that even now our faith is sometimes controlled mostly by fear and doubt, and we find it hard to believe. Sometimes the darkness within seems so deep that we wonder if even your light can penetrate it. We are afraid of what you will ask us to give, and to give up. We are afraid of who you will call us to be. We suspect that if we walk with you, sooner or later we will wind up at a cross.

And yet, deep within us, we know that only in you are we made whole. Only by following you can we fully be ourselves. And if your way leads to a cross, it also leads to life. In your grace is our strength. In your love is our joy. In your presence is our peace, now and forevermore. Amen.

Peggy Haymes

Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hidden from its heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.