

Meditation Adapted from Prayers of the Cosmos, by Neil Douglas-Klotz

O Birther! Father- Mother of the Cosmos

Oh Thou! The breathing life of all,
creator of the shimmering sound that echoes in us.

Source of Sound: in the roar and the whisper,
in the breeze and the whirlwind
we hear your name

You create all that moves in light
Focus your light within us - make it useful

As we breathe one holy breath

Help us let go,
clear the space inside of busy forgetfulness:

Create your reign of unity now-
through our fiery hearts and willing hands

Help us love beyond our ideals

and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures,
Creating Divine cooperation...

we feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.

Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.

Untangle the knots within
so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.

Free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.

From you is born our power and Life,
the song that beautifies all-- from age to age it renews.

Again and again, from each universal gathering--
of creatures, nations, planets, time, and space-- to the next.

The power of these statements truly is the ground from which all our actions
grow, sealed in trust and faith.

And so it is. Amen.

LET US SING FOR JOY

John 20:1-4

20:1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

20:2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

20:3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 20:4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

In John's gospel, we're told that Peter and John looked in the tomb, saw that Jesus was not there, and so returned to their homes. **But Mary stood, weeping.**

Mary is approached by angels-- messengers of God, and by the Risen Christ-- who ask why she is weeping, and as we heard on Friday night through the beautiful lens of Yeshiwa's story of love written by Rob, and enlivened by Will and Ginger--Mary's eyes and heart are opened and she steps into her full understanding of the message of LOVE ONE ANOTHER-- As I have Loved YOU.

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Richard Rohr on the Universal Christ and Resurrection:

Jesus... allows us to more easily experience the Presence that has always been available since the beginning of time, a Presence unlimited by space or time, the promise and guarantee of our own transformation ...In the historical Jesus, this eternal omnipresence had a precise, concrete, and personal referent. God's presence became more obvious and believable in the world. The formless took on form in someone we could "hear, see, and touch" (1 John 1:1), making God easier to love.

*But it seems we so fell in love with this personal interface in Jesus that we forgot about the Eternal Christ, the Body of God, which is all of creation, which is really the First Incarnation. [We] mystically [see] that Jesus is the union of human and divine in space and time; and Christ is the eternal union of matter and Spirit **from the beginning of time.***

***Resurrection** and renewal are, in fact, the universal and observable pattern of everything. We might just as well use non-religious terms like*

“springtime,” “regeneration,” “healing,” “forgiveness,” “life cycles,” “darkness,” and “light.” If incarnation is real, if material creation is inspired, then resurrection in multitudinous forms is to be fully expected.

Resurrection and renewal are the universal pattern! It is not history! We are not here to celebrate a physical resurrection that 200+ years of theology, science, philosophy can neither confirm nor deny! The point is not in the proving. The point is in the message of Mary-- I have seen the Lord.” And in *this* seeing WE are invited to see anew as we ARE renewed. To see anew OUR unrepeatable expression of the union of human and divine. To see anew the eternal union of matter and Spirit alive in the presence of Christ *in our midst*.

This pilgrimage journey of Jesus, of his beloved friends, of the power-hungry religious and political rulers of their time-- it is not history. It is a current event. It is an ongoing remembrance of the message that we are called to *empower* love, compassion, forgiveness, peace and justice instead of *holding power over*. **We have seen the Lord. Look around you in *this* space. Behold the Christ.**

What if Mary’s message across the ages is simply this:

We who are alive today are the eyes and ears,
the hands and feet of the Invisible Source.

We are Thought Incarnate, Word made flesh,
Spirit embodied.

Agents of ongoing creation, we are the consciousness
of the earth; the universe knowing itself, seeing itself,
singing to itself.

We are creation loving itself, healing itself
through our actions and compassion.

We who are alive today are prophets of a new time,
makers of a new myth, where Source dwells

not on some heavenly throne
but in the breath of living things:
among us and within us.

As the Cosmos multiples and expands forever outward
so does it expand forever inward
evolving us into beings of higher consciousness.

We are made of heaven and earth, starlight and clay,
minerals and meteor dust.

We are the Infinite Wave concentrated into finite
particles, spacetime compressed into the speck
of a lifetime.

We who are alive today came here with a purpose,
are in service to a mission:
to extend mercy, bring forth justice,
to re-member ourselves and converge as one.

We are creating tomorrow with our thoughts and words,
shaping ourselves,
our cultures and civilization
by what we do and fail to do.

We are ascending into our potential,
evolving into our Godness,
co-creating the Whole
that is the sum of our parts.

They never told us it would be like this:
that we ourselves are the shapers of our world,
called to BE the light and the holiness we seek.

We who are alive today:
Let us sing for joy

that the heaven we sought
is within and around us,
that wherever we look,
there is the Holiness looking back.

Let us not lose heart
no matter what storms batter and buffet us
for we are One with What is
And Life holds us mercifully in the palm of Its Hand.

So Be It .
By Jan Phillips

We breathe in one Holy Breath and hear the Source of Sound that echoes in each heartbeat, that whispers in the wind. We come into awareness of All That Is! We come into the Presence and SING FOR JOY!

We turn to *each other*, because our union is not only with the Holy One--OUR union with ALL THAT IS includes the strength we find in community-- and then we transform the world with our *fiery hearts and willing hands!*

We will each invariably hit a darkness, a sorrow, a despair that causes us to forget who we are, where we have come from, and where we have arisen from. So we come together to remember, to resurrect in each other the hope, the light, the truth of who we are called to be.

We who are alive today:
Let us sing for joy
that the heaven we sought
is within and around us,
that wherever we look,
there is the Holiness looking back.

So be it! And so it is! Amen! Alleluia! Amen!!