

- “Eclipsed by Love:” this spirit-prompted phrase was my mantra all week while I mused, prayed, and wrote. It led me to this question: “How is the sacred earth inviting me to notice metaphors about life and how the Divine Presence calls us?”

Myrtle Fillmore wrote in [***How to Let God Help You:***](#)

“The soul must be awakened, brought to a realization of Truth and encouraged in the righteous use of all the God-given faculties and powers. The individual must be helped to unify spirit, soul and body in harmonious spiritual living here and now.... And now, because of God's great understanding love, which Jesus Christ has helped us to comprehend and realize, we are beginning to catch glimpses of what the Father is and what he has for us and what we are in truth. We are beginning to learn that life is our gift from the Father, a gift that is never withdrawn, never lessened, never limited by the Giver. We are beginning to enjoy the gift and to yearn to know how to make right use of it so that we may have the fullness of joy and blessings in it. We are starting to discover that we can actually do the splendid things we were created to do and came into the world to do. this realization should send a glow of warmth and happiness, and a quickening of life all through our being.”

- Resurrection– life in Christ eclipses death...our souls and spirits awaken to the Christ presence that is ALWAYS alive– in us, in every aspect of life– but our *awareness* of The Christ Presence is eclipsed by our humannesswe forget to notice the stone has been rolled away, or fail to recognize the Presence or we keep ourselves locked away in a room in fear, like the apostles after Mary announces the resurrection
- What if the locked door is not “keeping us safe” but instead is keeping us imprisoned by fear, by doubt, by judgment, violence, overwhelm?
- Easter as a season, not just one day, and as we sang in Mark’s song “we are an Easter people in a Good Friday world”
 - How do we choose “Hope over hell, faith over fail, truth over lies”?
 - “The soul must be awakened...life is our gift..., a gift that is never withdrawn, never lessened, never limited by the Giver. We ... yearn to

know how to make right use of it so that we may have the fullness of joy and blessings in it.”

- In a little while we'll sing the song Choose Love:

Years cannot age you Fear cannot scare you
Pain cannot hurt you Death cannot kill you
War cannot harm you Hunger can't starve you
Sin cannot shame you Guilt cannot blame you
Choose Love Choose Love

In this Good Friday world, when war, hunger, death, fear, pain are raging— how can we sing those words? How do we affirm Life's gift that is never lessened? How do we live as Easter people? How do we live in a way that shakes up the status quo, where love eclipses all else?

From *Meister Eckhardt* in [“Love Poems from God”](#) edited by Daniel Landisnky:

I
have a cause.
We need those don't we?
Otherwise the darkness and the cold gets in
and everything starts to ache.

My soul has a purpose, it is
to love;

if I
do not fulfill
my heart's vocation,
I suffer

Here is why today's meditation will come after the message: it is not mine to tell you *your* soul's purpose, your heart's vocation. It is mine to remind us to listen to the voice of the one who gifts all Life, to remind us to awaken our soul to the Christ presence. And

so this morning I invite us to enter time in the quiet, led by some of the questions that have guided my spirit this week, as an offering for your spirit to bring to the Great Silence, which is, of course, the voice of the Holy One.

*Can our yearning to make right use of our life shake us out of apathy,
habit, feelings of overwhelm?*

Can LOVE eclipse fear?

Can compassion eclipse judgment?

Can kindness eclipse self-centeredness?

Can trust eclipse worries?

Can justice eclipse oppression?

From St John of the Cross in [“Love Poems from God”](#) edited by Daniel Landisnky::

If You Love

You might quiet the whole world for a second
if you pray.

And if you love, if you
really love,

our guns will
wilt.

May it be so. And so it is. Amen.