

Summer Prayer 2002

Richard A. Rhem
Christ Community Church
Spring Lake, Michigan

Summer 2002

Transcription of the prepared text

O God, we would be still
and know that you are God –
source of all being,
mysterious mover of the ongoing cosmic drama,
creatively breathing fresh surprises
into the tapestry of our history,
graciously present to us in those moments of awareness
when we come to ourselves,
when for at least a brief time light dawns upon us,
and we are saturated with wonder –
at the sight of setting sun or starry sky,
the song of a bird,
the smell of grass newly mown.

Then in silence and solitude
we know what is beyond knowing –
then a serenity sweeps over our souls
and we know all is gift,
for we did not create ourselves nor our world –
not the mellow summer sun,
not the air we breathe,
not the restless surf that crashes or caresses
the shore of the sea.

Then we know we are part of something so much larger
than the narrow parameters of our daily experience and limited understanding.
Before the wonder of it all,
we sense we are embraced,
caught up in something the dimensions of which we cannot begin to take in –
that Mystery that has addressed us,
eliciting from us in turn the response of address
when from our depths we utter, “O God...”

Then, knowing beyond knowing,
we know we have been found by our Source
and in turn have found our resting place.
Source and resting place, present to us in mysterious and gracious presence,
it is enough.

Only gratitude then fills our being
and thus we pray,
Thanks be to you, O God.
Receive our thanksgiving through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, moments of awareness when we are attentive,
present to the awesome gift of life,
the beauty, the marvel of it all,
the potential of the human creature,
whose consciousness is the consciousness of the cosmos,
whose voice is the speech of Being –
in those moments we wonder why humankind,
so richly endowed,
should become an instrument of hate and violence,
of destruction and death,
despoiling the good earth, fouling the air,
threatening war, creating systems of domination and oppression.

We have the vision of the prophets –
a vision of Shalom, of the Peaceable Kingdom
where no one will hurt or destroy.
It is not that we do not know better.
It is that we have not the will;
we are not willing to be and to do,
that justice may prevail and peace rule.

We cry not to you, O God, to transform our world –
It is our world; it is in our hands to mend or destroy.
Then transform us by your Spirit;
make us instruments of your peace, O God.
Hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And finally – for ourselves –
give us a fresh taste of your mercy,
a new glimpse of your grace.
Enable us to let go of old hurts,
free us from the paralysis of past failures,
blot out hulking nightmares of an earlier defeat.
Newness, O God, newness –
newness of heart, newness of soul, newness of mind –
for that we pray.