

Prayer for the World, 1997

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Transcription of prepared text

Living God,
fountain of creative energy,
mystery beyond fathoming,
we pray, we speak, we address you
hidden in a cloud of unknowing.

We address you, God of our lives,
for we have been addressed –
encountered, touched, moved by grace.
We contemplate our world
and we stand in awe.
Wonder overwhelms us.

Are you the cosmic poet,
the composer of this cosmic symphony,
the grand initiator of all that is,
the ultimate strange attractor
that beckons all life and existence toward the Heavenly City?

O God, we worship.
We bring our prayer of thanksgiving.
We, your children, offspring of stardust,
gaze with awe at the wonder of it all –
you who transforms chaos into cosmos,
disorder into order,
dissonance and noise into the language of a poem –
you are our life;
in you we live and move and have our being.

Conscious, aware, observers of a cosmic drama –
we sense we have been addressed.
We have been touched by a very great grace.

We praise you.
We give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, we bring before you our world,
the world that is a minor planet
on the edge of a middling galaxy –
yet a world, according to the evangelist, you love.
Stretch our minds and expand our hearts to take in the world –
to love it, to care for it,
with sensitivity.

We are so aware today,
for the world's anguish is vividly portrayed for us.
Yet, we see too its beauty, its potential.

O God, there is so much human suffering,
so much tragedy.
Yet there is so much possibility
for the flourishing of a humane community.
Ours is a world of unspeakable brutality,
of beautiful tenderness.

We hold our world before you.
Make us instruments of your peace,
agents of reconciliation,
creators of community,
healers of the world's ills.

Hear these our intercessions,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.