

Reflection I. (after "A Mighty Fortress", before the group beginning with "Unexpected and Mysterious")

"Behold, I am doing
a new thing",
declares God.
"Do you not see it?"

(Is.43:19)

A new thing.
unexpected.
the universe spirals
toward diversity
toward complexity
newness.
surprising us
with smaller and smaller subatomic particles
astonishing us
with larger and larger galaxies
serenading us
with deep songs from the nebulas
and stars.
unexpected.
wonder full.
God at work in the universe
mysterious.
Beneath the midnight galaxies
surrounded by clusters
of angel song
A new thing.
unexpected.
God and human
come together
in the chamber
of the heart
heart of human
heart of God
unexpected.
a new thing.

Reflection II. (after "Christ, When For Us," before "Bless Now, O God, the Journey")

"Let the same mind
be in you
that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was
in the form of God...
emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave."

(Phil.2:5,6,7,)

The Greek word
for repentance,
metanoia,
means
"go beyond
the mind
that you have".
Jesus walked the limestone roads
of Galilee
calling the people
to step beyond.
To step beyond fear
to step beyond grasping for power
to step beyond who's in and who's out
to step beyond self-loathing.
Samuel Torvend writes:
"Reform was at
the very heart
of Jesus' own
public work..."
calling for reform
in the daily lives
of pious and observant people
calling for reform
of an oppressive
and punitive
understanding of God.
Go beyond the mind that you have -
"Let this mind be in you"-
Christ healed
Christ fed

(Luther and the Hungry Poor, p. 10)

Christ taught
Christ loved,
and -
Fear Not -
Christ lives.

Reflection III. (after "Day of Arising," before "O Living Breath of God")

"And the One who was seated
on the throne said,
"See, I am making
all things new."

(Rev. 21:5)

The journey
in Christ
is a journey of
becoming,
of
new creation.
The heart of God
enters the
human heart and -
new creation
The mind of Christ
opens the
human mind and -
new creation
(Behold, I make all things new)
The Spirit of God
joins new heart and new mind
in the human body and -
sparks burst forth
fire flames upward:
wonder
gratitude
compassion
justice
peace

new creation
in this body
in this life
in this place

A story from the desert fathers and mothers:

Abba Lot went to see Abba Joseph and said:

Abba, as far as I can, I say my little office,
I fast a little, I pray and meditate,
I live in peace, and, as far as I can,
I purify my thoughts.
What else can I do?
The the old man stood up
and stretched up his hands toward heaven.
His fingers burned like ten lamps of flame, and he said,
"You can become fire."

Reflection IV. (after "God of Tempest," before "Holy God, We Praise Your Name")

"The steadfast love of God
never ceases;
God's mercies never come
to an end;
they are new every morning."

(Lam. 3:22,23)

God is always
drawing the universe
toward newness
God is ever
beckoning us
to become
to become new creations
to step beyond.
Wonders surround us
Can we remain unmoved?
Shall we stare uncomprehending,
as Luther says,
"like a cow
staring at a new gate?"
The universe spirals
toward diversity
toward complexity
Wake, awake
it sings in the ear,
Step beyond,
become new
become the person
God created you to be:
prophets, apostles, white-robed martyrs,
teachers, carpenters, physicists, poets
unexpected.
mysterious.
In the heart of God
In the mind of Christ
In the fire of the Spirit.

(Lectures on Genesis, at 45:3)

Rabbi Zusya said:
In the world to come,

I shall not be asked,
"Why were you not Moses?"
I shall be asked,
"Why were you not Zusya?"

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