



October 20, 2025

Listening

I've been wondering lately if God wants us to just listen. In his book, *Now and Then*, Frederick Buechner wrote, "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it not less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."

Where can we find God when we wake up in the morning? Maybe we get a glimpse of the divine presence in the warm body lying next to us, or in the sun coming up through the clouds coloring the sky pink and orange. On a very still morning, when the lakes are like glass and the leaves rest peacefully, God is there, just being with us.

Throughout our days, stormy or still, alone or in a crowd, God is with us, very close, whether we can feel it, conceptualize it or even believe it.

God is with us when we pray in silence or in angry utterances. God is present when tears come unexpectedly, and when we are overcome with joy. God is there when we are sad about a recent diagnosis, or when we are awestruck at yet another blue sky day.

Recently Mike and I visited my brother in St. George, Utah. We hadn't seen him since my dad died in 2013. As we disembarked and walked into the small airport, tears came unexpectedly to my eyes. My brother's relationship to the rest of us in the family has been rocky. I didn't analyze my tears, I just listened to them. And after we said our goodbyes, those tears came again. I hold these tears in faith, listening to the love and grace of God in the tears, even as I write this.

Travel can be wonderful. It gets us out of our routine and can give us a refreshed perspective. Travel can also re-connect us with family, like our trip out West did for Mike and me (we visited Mike's sister, too, who lives in Colorado.) This trip happened to come at a really good time in all of our lives. It felt like an answer to a prayer that we didn't even pray. Thanks for that thought, Rev. Anne!

Now we are home, ready for the routines of our lives, ready to enjoy the colors and prepare for the cold and quiet and whatever else comes our way. In the ups and downs, let us all remember how close God is. Life is uncertain and a gift. So I listen with God to the "fathomless mystery" of life, looking for grace and remembering that all moments are key moments.

~Written by Barbara Perry

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