

Dancing with the Holy Spirit ~ Midweek Reflection # 50 May 28, A Book Review

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” (St. Paul Galatians 5:25)

As I prepared to speak on Pentecost Sunday I kept coming across this metaphor of dancing through life being led by the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the most compelling image is in this prayer by Janet Morley which is in a book I have been using as I study for my homilies, meditations, sermons:

“Flame dancing Spirit

Flame dancing Spirit come, sweep us off our feet and

Dance us through our days.

Surprise us with your rhythms;

Dare us to try new steps, explore

New patterns and new partnerships;

Release us from old routines

To swing in abandoned joy and Fearful adventure.

And In the intervals, Rest us

In your still centre. Amen.”

Janet Morley, in The St. Hilda Community,

Women Included (London; SPCK, p.44

The book I found this gem in and which I would like to encourage you to use for your devotional life is:

[Resources For Preaching And Worship Year B Quotations, Poetry and Prayers](#)

Compiled By Hannah Ward And Jennifer Wild, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville
- London, 2002

This book and its companion volumes for Year A & Year C in the Lectionary have been an invaluable source of inspiration for me over the past few years. Ward and Wild follow the Common Lectionary scripture readings and support the themes for each Sunday of the year with quotations, poetry and prayers that they have compiled from a great variety of sources. The material expands one's understanding of the text and stimulates the imagination for application of the scriptures to daily living.

Janet Morley's prayer above is a good example. It dovetailed so beautifully with St. Paul's image in Galatians 5 of letting the Holy Spirit lead us in our steps.

As I indicated above, it has not only been helpful in preparing to speak but in my personal daily walk with God. I would highly recommend finding a copy if you are looking for a new devotional aid for yourself or for use with a small group experience.

May we all be surprised by the rhythms of the Holy Spirit as we follow in the steps of God's great dance of life. Have a Spirit filled week.

Under God's Mercy,

Howie