

Guest Reader(s)
P. 26
1 or 2 readers
Jewish or non-Jewish

When it is dark

When it is dark we yearn for light.

Sometimes the light is too much for us
and we seek a cool, comforting darkness.

All comes from the One-Source,
all that we deem good and all that we deem evil.

We wake in the morning and it is as if the world were created anew:
Infinite light spreads over all the finite creatures.

We feel The-Wisdom-of-Creation in the vastness
of what is touched and untouched by light
and held by the warm embrace of that Wisdom.

We are humbled before the intricacy of The Touch
that has brought all this to be
and the Light-of-Lights that illuminates it.

Our eyes and souls are opened
by the Light-that-Comes-From-Light.

Guest Reader(s)

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1-3 Readers - All Jews please

So you shall love what is holy

So you shall love what is holy
with all your courage, with all your passion, with all your strength.
Let the words that have come down
shine in our words and our actions.
We must teach our children to know and understand them.

We must speak about what is good and holy within our homes,
when we are working, when we are at play,
when we lie down and when we get up.
Let the work of your hands speak them,
let your eyes shine and see with their knowledge.
Let them run in your blood
and glow from your doors and windows.

We should love ourselves, for we are of God.
We should love our neighbors as ourselves.
We should love the stranger, for we were once strangers
in the land of Egypt
and have been strangers in all the lands of the world since.

Let love fill our hearts with its clear precious water
for all living with whom we share the water of life.
Heaven and earth observe how we cherish or spoil our world.
Heaven and earth watch whether we choose life or choose death.
We must choose life so that we and our children's children may live.

We must love the source of being and the power of life.
Be quiet and listen to the still small voice within that speaks in love.
Open to it, hear it, heed it and work for life.
Let us remember and strive to be good.
Let us remember to find what is holy
within and without.

Marge Piercy

Guest Reader(s)
(taken from Afternoon Service
1-2 Readers - Jews or non-Jews

MEDITATIONS

We have come into this sanctuary
seeking the Divine-Presence-in-All-Things.
May we hear the Still-Small-Voice:

If our lives have become shallow, may we deepen them
through our prayer.

If our principles have become shabby,
may we repair them through our prayer.

If our ideals have become tarnished,
may we restore them through our prayer.

If our hopes have become faded,
may we revive them through our prayer.

If our loyalties have grown dim,
may we brighten them through our prayer.

If our values have become confused,
may we clarify them through our prayer.

If our purposes have become blurred,
may we sharpen them through our prayer.

If our horizons have become narrowed,
may we widen them through our prayer.

Guest Reader(s)
P. 36
1-2 Readers
Jews please

There is Holiness

There is holiness
when we strive to be true to the best we know.

There is holiness when we are kind to someone
who cannot possibly be of service to us.

There is holiness
when we promote family harmony.

There is holiness when we forget what divides us
and remember what unites us.

There is holiness when we are willing to be laughed at
for what we believe.

There is holiness when we love - truly, honestly, and unselfishly.

There is holiness when we remember the lonely
and bring cheer into a dark corner.

There is holiness when we share –
our bread, our ideas, our enthusiasms.

Guest Reader(s)
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1-2 Readers
Young people usually
good for this

Anne Frank Reading

Anne Frank was a young girl in Amsterdam, Holland during the terrible days of Nazi Germany.

Two weeks before she died - one of six million Jews and twelve million persons who perished in the Holocaust - she wrote the following words in her diary:

"It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out.

Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.

I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness.

I hear the approaching thunder, I can feel the suffering of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come out right one of these days, that this cruelty will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.

In the meantime, I must hold on to my ideals for perhaps the day will come when I shall be able to carry them out."