

# Day 1

## Wild Geese

Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.  
You do not have to walk on your knees  
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.  
You only have to let the soft animal of your body  
love what it loves.  
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.  
Meanwhile the world goes on.  
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain  
are moving across the landscapes,  
over the prairies and the deep trees,  
the mountains and the rivers.  
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,  
are heading home again.  
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,  
the world offers itself to your imagination,  
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting  
over and over announcing your place  
in the family of things.

## Pray: Isaiah 40

People are grass  
that wither and fade,  
but You are forever.

Eternal and everlasting,  
the Creator of the earth,  
You never faint  
and never grow weary.

Empower me,  
lift me up,  
renew my strength,  
set me high  
on wings of eagles,  
lift me up,  
and I will fly,  
and not fall.

Eternal and everlasting,

Creator of the earth,  
lift me up...

## **Day 2**

### **Travelers**

Basho

The moon and sun are travelers through eternity.  
Even the years wander on.  
Whether drifting through life on a boat  
or climbing toward old age leading a horse,  
each day is a journey, and the journey itself is home.

### **Pray: I Need Thee**

I need Thee  
every hour  
hours of joy  
hours of pain  
come quickly  
abide  
without You  
my life  
I live in vain.

I need Thee  
O I need Thee  
every hour  
I need Thee  
O bless me now  
my Savior  
I come to Thee.  
I come to Thee.  
I come to Thee.

Annie S. Hawks 1835-1918

## **Day 3**

### **Risk everything**

Rumi

Risk everything  
for love.

If you do,  
you're a truly human.  
If not,  
why bother?  
Halfheartedly  
you'll never reach  
majesty.  
You'll set out  
to find God,  
but then  
hinder your journey  
at mean-spirited  
roadhouses.

### **Pray: Prayer for Peace**

St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
Where there is hatred,  
let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console;  
To be understood,  
as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning  
that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying  
that we are born  
to eternal life. Amen.

### **Day 4**

**i thank You God for most this amazing**

e.e. cummings

i thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any – lifted from the no  
of all nothing – human merely being  
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

**Pray: Joyful**

Joyful, Joyful,  
I adore Thee  
God of glory  
Lord of love.

My heart unfolds  
a flower  
before Thee  
opening to  
the sun above.

Melt my clouds  
of sin and sadness  
drive my gloom  
and doubts away.

Giver of  
immortal gladness  
fill me  
with the light of day.

Henry Van Dyke 1907

## Day 5

### The Day Millicent Found the World

William Stafford

Every morning Millicent ventured farther  
into the woods. At first she stayed  
near light, the edge where bushes grew, where  
her way back appeared in glimpses among  
dark trunks behind her. Then by farther paths  
or openings where giant pines had fallen  
she explored ever deeper into  
the interior, till one day she stood under a great  
dome among columns, the heart of the forest, and knew:  
Lost. She had achieved a mysterious world  
where any direction would yield only surprise...

### Pray: Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision  
O Lord of my heart.

Naught be all else to me  
save that Thou art.

Thou my best thought  
by day or by night,

Waking or sleeping  
Thy presence my light.

Mary E. Byrne, 1905

## Day 6

### Today, like every other day

Rumi

Today, like every other day,  
we wake up empty and frightened.  
Don't open the door to the study and begin reading.  
Take down a musical instrument.  
Let the beauty we love be what we do.  
There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.

## **Pray: Savior, In This Quiet Place**

Fred Pratt Green 1974

O Savior  
in this quiet place  
where anyone may kneel  
I also come  
to ask for grace  
believing You can heal.

## **Day 7**

### **Confluents**

Christina Rossetti

As rivers seek the sea,  
Much more deep than they,  
So my soul seeks thee  
Far away:  
As running rivers moan  
On their course alone  
So I moan  
Left alone.

As the delicate rose  
To the sun's sweet strength  
Doth herself unclose,  
Breadth and length:  
So spreads my heart to thee  
Unveiled utterly,  
I to thee  
Utterly.

As morning dew exhales  
Sunwards pure and free,  
So my spirit fails  
After thee:  
As dew leaves not a trace  
On the green earth's face;  
I, no trace  
On thy face.

Its goal the river knows,  
Dewdrops find a way,  
Sunlight cheers the rose

In her day:  
Shall I, lone sorrow past,  
Find thee at the last?  
Sorrow past,  
Thee at last?

**Pray: Psalm 42**

As a deer  
thirsts for a stream,  
so my soul  
thirsts for You.

I start to weep,  
I begin to moan,  
then I say to my soul,  
“Soul, why so cast down?  
“Trust God,  
"Hope again.”

As a deer  
thirsts for a stream,  
so my soul  
thirsts for You.

**Day 8**

**Foolish one**

Hafiz

Foolish one,  
do something,  
or else you'll just be  
standing there, looking dumb.

If you are not traveling  
and on the road,  
how can you call yourself a guide?

**Pray: Show Me**

Show me,  
Gracious Lord,  
the peace I should seek,  
the peace I can keep,  
the peace I must forgo,  
and the peace I must give,

For Your kingdom's sake.

## **Day 9**

### **Just Be Ready**

William Stafford

You can't tell when strange things with meaning  
will happen. I'm [still] here writing it down  
just the way it was.

"You don't have to prove anything,"  
my mother said. "Just be ready  
for what God sends."

I listened and put my hand  
out in the sun again. It was all easy.

### **Pray: Breathe on Me**

Breathe on me  
Breath of God

Fill me  
with life anew

I want to love  
as You love  
and do  
as You want me to do.

Breathe on me  
Breath of God  
until I  
am wholly Thine  
until this  
earthly part of me  
glows with  
Your fire divine.

Edwin Hatch, 1835-1889

## **Day 10**

### **Four things**

Antonio Machado

---Mankind owns four things



that are no good at sea:  
rudder, anchor, oars  
and the fear of going down.

**Pray: Take My Life**

Take my life  
and let it be  
consecrated  
Lord to Thee.

Take my silver  
and my gold  
not a cent  
do I withhold.

Take my moments  
and my days  
let them flow  
in ceaseless praise.

Take myself  
and I will be  
ever only  
all for Thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal 1874

**Day 11**

**Selling your donkey**

Rumi

Imagine a man selling his donkey to be with Jesus.  
Now imagine him selling Jesus to get a ride on a donkey.  
This does happen.

**Pray: God, Give Me to Abide in Thee**

Dag Hammarskjöld

God,

Give me a pure heart  
that I may see Thee,

a humble heart  
that I may hear Thee,

a heart of love  
that I may serve Thee,

a heart of faith  
that I may abide in Thee.

## **Day 12**

### **The Vacation**

Wendell Berry

Once there was a man who filmed his vacation.  
He went flying down the river in his boat  
with his video camera to his eye, making  
a moving picture of the moving river  
upon which his sleek boat moved swiftly  
toward the end of his vacation. He showed  
his vacation to his camera, which pictured it,  
preserving it forever: the river, the trees,  
the sky, the light, the bow of his rushing boat  
behind which he stood with his camera  
preserving his vacation even as he was having it  
so that after he had had it he would still  
have it. It would be there. With a flick  
of a switch, there it would be. But he  
would not be in it. He would never be in it.

### **Pray: Open My Eyes**

Open my eyes  
that I may see  
glimpses of truth  
Thou hast for me.

Place in my hands  
the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp  
and set me free.

Silently now  
I wait for Thee

Ready my God

Thy will to see

Open my eyes  
illumine me,

Spirit divine!

Clara Scott, 1895

## **Day 13**

### **I love Jesus**

Antonio Machado

---I love Jesus, who said to us:  
Heaven and earth will pass away.  
When heaven and earth have passed away,  
my word will remain.  
What was your word, Jesus?  
Love? Forgiveness? Affection?  
All your words were  
one word: Wakeup.

### **Pray: Take Thou My Mind**

William H. Foulkes 1918

Take Thou my mind  
dear Lord  
I humbly pray.

Give me  
the mind of Christ  
each passing day.

Teach me  
to know the truth  
that sets me free.

Grant me  
in all my thoughts  
to honor Thee.

## Day 14

### Is My Soul Asleep?

Antonio Machado

Is my soul asleep?  
Have those beehives that labor  
at night stopped? And the water-  
wheel of thought,  
is it dry, the cups empty,  
wheeling, carrying only shadows?  
No, my soul is not asleep,  
It is awake, wide awake.  
It neither sleeps nor dreams, but watches,  
its clear eyes open,  
far-off things, and listens  
at the shores of the great silence.

### Pray: Psalm 8

When I look at the stars,  
the skies,  
the heavens...

I think, "Who am I?"

Who am I that You

Creator of the ends of the universe

Notice me?

Think of me?

Care about me?

Who am I?

I am Yours.

Yours.

Yours.

Thank You...

Thank You...

Thank You...

For caring about me.

## Day 15

### The Scattered Congregation

Tomas Tranströmer

I

We got ready and showed our home  
The visitor thought: you live well.  
The slum must be inside you.

II

Inside the church, pillars and vaulting  
white as plaster, like the cast  
around the broken arm of faith.

III

Inside the church there's a begging bowl  
that slowly lifts from the floor  
and floats along the pews.

IV

But the church bells have gone underground.  
They're hanging in the sewage pipes.  
Whenever we take a step, they ring.

V

Nicodemus the sleepwalker is on his way  
to the Address. Who's got the Address?  
Don't know. But that's where we're going.

### Pray: Just As I Am

Tossed about  
with many conflicts  
many doubts  
just as I am  
to You I come.

Fightings and fears  
within and without  
just as I am  
to You I come.

You will receive  
You will welcome  
pardon cleanse relieve

just as I am  
to You I come.

Your promise  
I believe  
just as I am  
to You I come.

Just as I am  
to You I come.

Charlotte Elliott 1834

## **Day 16**

### **The Peace of Wild Things**

Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

### **Pray: For the Beauty of The Earth**

For the beauty  
of Your earth  
for the beauty  
of Your skies  
for the beauty  
of Your love  
which from my birth  
over and around me lies...

Lord of all to You I raise  
this my prayer of grateful praise.

For the beauty  
of each hour

of the day  
and of the night  
hill and vale  
tree and flower  
sun and moon  
stars of light...

Lord of all to You I raise  
this my prayer of grateful praise.

Folliott Sanford Pierpoint 1864

## **Day 17**

### **Psalm 23**

from The Bay Psalm Book

The Lord to me a shepherd is,  
Want therefore I shall not,  
He in the folds of tender grass  
Doth make me down to lie  
To waters calm he gently leads  
Restore my soul doth he  
He doth in paths of righteousness  
For his names sake lead me.  
Yea though in valley of death's shade  
I walk none ill I'll fear,  
Because thou art with me, thy rod,  
and staff my comfort are.  
For me a table thou hast spread  
In presence of my foes;  
Thou dost annoint my head with oil  
My cup it over-flows.  
Goodness and mercy surely shall  
All my days follow me;  
And in the Lord's house I shall dwell  
So long as days shall be.

### **Pray: Psalm 23**

Lord,  
You are my shepherd.

You guide me  
down the right path,  
to green pastures,

by quiet waters,  
where You restore my soul.

I trust and am not afraid,  
even in the darkest valley  
where death seems all around  
I trust and am not afraid  
because You comfort me.

You prepare me a table,  
You anoint my head,  
You fill my cup.

I trust and am not afraid,  
because in Your house  
I will dwell forever.

Lord,  
You are my shepherd.

## **Day 18**

### **Joseph**

Unknown

Joseph,  
sitting at the bottom of a well,  
cast there by his brothers,  
listened ahead to the end  
of his story.  
Listeners like him,  
travelers on the way,  
understand success and  
un-success both  
as part of the story.  
They are one.

### **Pray: Nearer My God to Thee**

Nearer  
my God  
to Thee.

Nearer  
my God.  
to Thee.



Even though  
it be a cross  
that raiseth me,

Nearer  
my God  
to Thee.

Sarah F. Adams 1805-1848

## **Day 19**

### **The Infinite a sudden guest**

Emily Dickinson

The Infinite a sudden guest  
Has been assumed to be,  
But how can that stupendous come  
Which never went away?

### **Pray: Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise**

Immortal  
Invisible  
God only wise

In light  
Inaccessible  
Hid from my eyes

Most blessed  
Most glorious  
Ancient of Days

Almighty  
Victorious

Your great name  
I praise.

Walter Smith, 1876

## Day 20

### Reading Moby-Dick at 30,000 Feet      Tony Hoagland

At this height, Kansas  
is just a concept,  
a checkerboard design of wheat and corn

no larger than the foldout section  
of my neighbor's travel magazine.  
At this stage of the journey

I would estimate the distance  
between myself and my own feelings  
is roughly the same as the mileage

from Seattle to New York,  
so I can lean back into the upholstered interval  
between Muzak and lunch,

a little bored, a little old and strange.  
I remember, as a dreamy  
backyard kind of kid,

tilting up my head to watch  
those planes engrave the sky  
in lines so steady and so straight

they implied the enormous concentration  
of good men,  
but now my eyes flicker

from the in-flight movie  
to the stewardess's pantyline,  
then back into my book,

where men throw harpoons at something  
much bigger and probably  
better than themselves,

wanting to kill it,  
wanting to see great clouds of blood erupt  
to prove that they exist.

Imagine being born and growing up,  
rushing through the world for sixty years

at unimaginable speeds.

Imagine a century like a room so large,  
a corridor so long  
you could travel for a lifetime

and never find the door,  
until you had forgotten  
that such a thing as doors exist.

Better to be on board the Pequod,  
with a mad one-legged captain  
living for revenge.

Better to feel the salt wind  
spitting in your face,  
to hold your sharpened weapon high,

to see the glisten  
of the beast beneath the waves.  
What a relief it would be

to hear someone in the crew  
cry out like a gull,  
Oh Captain, Captain!  
Where are we going now?

### **Pray: Take Me**

God,

My heart is not large enough,  
enlarge it.

My vision is not clear enough,  
enlighten it.

My will is not tough enough,  
strengthen it.

I can't get there on my own,  
take me.

## **Day 21**

### **The Three Kings**

Muriel Spark

Where do we go from here?  
We left our country,  
Bore gifts,  
Followed a star.  
We were questioned.  
We answered.  
We reached our objective.  
We enjoyed the trip.  
Then we came back by a different way.  
And now the people are demonstrating in the streets.  
They say they don't need the Kings any more.  
They did very well in our absence.  
Everything was all right without us.  
They are out on the streets with placards:  
Wise Men? What's wise about them?  
There are plenty of Wise Men,  
And who needs them? -and so on.

Perhaps they will be better off without us,  
But where do we go from here?

### **Pray: Isaiah 6:8**

Here am I,  
send me.

## **Day 22**

### **This we have now**

Rumi

This we have now is not imagination.

This is not grief or joy.

Not a judging state, or an elation, or sadness.

Those come and go.

This is the presence that doesn't.

## **Pray: For Everlasting Love**

Henri Nouwen

Dear God,

I am so afraid  
to open my clenched fists!

Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to?  
Who will I be when I stand  
before you with empty hands?

Please help me  
to gradually open my hands  
and to discover  
that I am not what I own,  
but what you want to give me.  
And what you want to give me  
is love,  
unconditional,  
everlasting love.  
Amen.

## **Day 23**

### **The Way It Is**

William Stafford

There's a thread you follow. It goes among  
things that change. But it doesn't change.  
People wonder about what you are pursuing.  
You have to explain about the thread.  
But it is hard for others to see.  
While you hold it you can't get lost.  
Tragedies happen; people get hurt  
or die; and you suffer and get old.  
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.  
You don't ever let go of the thread.

### **Pray: I Believe**

I believe  
You are real  
though  
I cannot  
see You.

I believe  
You are near  
though  
I cannot  
sense You.

I believe  
You care for me  
though  
I cannot  
feel You.

Draw me closer  
so that I may  
see You,  
feel Your presence,  
sense Your love.

I believe,  
Help my unbelief.

## **Day 24**

### **A Message from the Wanderer**

William Stafford

Today outside your prison I stand  
and rattle my walking stick: Prisoners, listen;  
you have relatives outside. And there are  
thousands of ways to escape.

Years ago I bent my skill to keep my  
cell locked, had chains smuggled to me in pies,  
and shouted my plans to jailers;  
but always new plans occurred to me,  
or the new heavy locks bent hinges off,  
or some stupid jailer would forget  
and leave the keys.

Inside, I dreamed of constellations—  
those feeding creatures outlined by stars,  
their skeletons a darkness between jewels,  
heroes that exist only where they are not.

Thus freedom always came nibbling my thought,  
just as—often, in light, on the open hills—  
you can pass an antelope and not know  
and look back, and then—even before you see—  
there is something wrong about the grass.  
And then you see.

That's the way everything in the world is waiting.

Now—these few more words, and then I'm  
gone: Tell everyone just to remember  
their names, and remind others, later, when we  
find each other. Tell the little ones  
to cry and then go to sleep, curled up  
where they can. And if any of us get lost,  
if any of us cannot come all the way—  
remember: there will come a time when  
all we have said and all we have hoped  
will be all right.

There will be that form in the grass.

### **Pray: God, Be**

God,

be in my head  
and in my understanding,

be in my eyes  
and in my looking,

in my mouth  
and in my speaking,

in my mind  
and in my thinking,

at my end  
and at my departing.

## **Day 25**

### **Fishing in the Keep of Silence**

Linda Gregg

There is a hush now while the hills rise up  
and God is going to sleep. He trusts the ship  
of Heaven to take over and proceed beautifully  
as he lies dreaming in the lap of the world.  
He knows the owls will guard the sweetness of the soul  
in their massive keep of silence,  
looking out with eyes open or closed over  
the length of Tomales Bay that the herons  
conform to, whitely broad in flight, white  
and slim in standing. God, who thinks about  
poetry all the time, breathes happily as He  
repeats to Himself: there are fish in the net,  
lots of fish this time in the net of the heart.

### **Pray: Lead Me to Life**

Brihad-Aranyaka Upanishad

From the unreal,  
lead me to the real.

From darkness,  
lead me to light.

From death,  
lead me to life.

## **Day 26**

### **Simply Trust**

Issa

Simply trust.  
Do not the leaves flutter down,  
just like that?

### **Pray: Jonah 2 (from inside the Great Fish)**

I called out to You,  
out of my deep distress,  
and You answered me.

From the grave,  
from deep darkness,  
I cried, and You heard my voice.



You threw me into the deep,  
You cast me into  
the heart of the sea,  
where the torrent surrounded me,  
where Your surf,  
Your waves,  
crashed over me.

Then, I said, "I am lost,  
out of even the sight  
and presence of God.  
I am truly alone."

The waters closed in over me.  
The deep encompassed me.  
Weeds wrapped around my head.  
At the base of the mountains,  
I fell into the deep where the darkness closed upon me.  
I surrendered. Gone forever.

Yet, You pulled me  
up from the Pit.  
My Lord! My God!  
As my life faded, vanished,  
I remembered You!  
My prayer came to You!  
My voice entered into  
Your holy presence,  
where You heard me!

Salvation and deliverance  
I am Yours.  
This day, this moment, this instant  
are all Yours.

Amen.

## **Day 27**

### **I dwell in Possibility**

Emily Dickinson

I dwell in Possibility--  
A fairer House than Prose--  
More numerous of Windows--

Superior--for Doors--

Of Chambers as the Cedars--  
Impregnable of Eye--  
And for an Everlasting Roof  
The Gambrels of the Sky--

Of Visitors--the fairest--  
For Occupation--This--  
The spreading wide my narrow Hands  
To gather Paradise—

### **Pray: Turn Me, O God**

God,  
come to me,  
be near me,  
with me.

Come  
as water  
and cleanse me.

Come  
as fire  
and refine me.

Come  
as a spring  
and refresh me.

Confront me.  
Convert me.  
Consecrate me.

Turn my heart,  
and my life,  
toward Your greater good.

## **Day 28**

### **Your World**

Georgia Douglas Johnson

Your world is as big as you make it  
I know, for I used to abide

in the narrowest nest in a corner,  
my wings pressing close to my side.

But I sighted the distant horizon  
where the skyline encircles the sea  
and I throbbed with a burning desire  
to travel this immensity.

I battered the cordons around me  
and cradled my wings on the breeze  
then soared to the uttermost reaches  
with rapture, with power, with ease.

### **Pray: Have Thine Own Way**

Adelaide A. Pollard 1880

Have Thine own way Lord!  
Have Thine own way!

You are the potter  
I am the clay.

Mold me and make me  
after Thy will  
while I am waiting  
yielded and still.

Have Thine own way Lord!  
Have Thine own way!

Wounded and weary  
help me I pray!

Power all power  
surely is Thine!  
Touch me and heal me  
Savior divine!

Have Thine own way Lord!  
Have Thine own way!

## **Day 29**

### **Hope is the thing with feathers**

Emily Dickinson

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.

### **Pray: In You**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer  
(written while awaiting execution)

In me  
there is darkness,  
but with You  
there is light.

I am lonely,  
but You do not leave me.  
I am feeble,  
but You give me help.  
I am restless,  
but You give me peace.  
In me there is bitterness,  
but with You there is patience.

I do not understand Your ways.  
but You are the way for me.

Restore me to liberty,  
enable me to live free, now,  
that I may answer before You,  
and before me,  
whatever this day may bring.

Your name be praised.

## **Day 30**

### **Prayer**

Gallaway Kinnell

Whatever happens. Whatever  
what is is what  
I want. Only that. But that.

### **Yes**

William Stafford.

It could happen any time, tornado,  
earthquake, Armageddon. It could happen.  
Or sunshine, love, salvation.

It could, you know. That's why we wake  
and look out – no guarantees  
in this life.

But some bonuses, like morning,  
like right now, like noon,  
like evening.

### **Pray: Matthew 6:9-13**

My Father,  
in heaven,  
Hallowed is Your Name.

Your kingdom NOW.  
Your will NOW.  
in me  
as in heaven,  
in my home  
as in heaven,  
on earth  
as in heaven,  
in me  
as in You.  
NOW,  
not tomorrow,  
TODAY,  
not later  
NOW!

## Day 31

### Pax

D.H. Lawrence

All that matters is to be at one with the living God  
to be a creature in the house of the God of Life.

Like a cat asleep on a chair  
at peace, in peace  
and at one with the master of the house, with the mistress,  
at home, at home in the house of the living,  
sleeping on the hearth, and yawning before the fire.

Sleeping on the hearth of the living world  
yawning at home before the fire of life  
feeling the presence of the living God  
like a great reassurance  
a deep calm in the heart  
a presence  
as of the master sitting at the board  
in his own and greater being,  
in the house of life.

### Pray: Into Your Keeping

Margaret Cropper

Now, into Your keeping,  
I give all doings of today.

All disappointments,  
hindrances,  
forgotten things,  
negligences.

All gladness and beauty,  
love,  
delight,  
achievement.

All that people  
have done for me,  
All that I have done for them,  
All my work, and my prayers,

And I commit to You,  
All the people I love,  
to Your shepherding,  
Your healing,  
Your restoring,  
Your calling,  
Your making,  
Your care.

## **Day 32**

### **Paradise Lost**

Erich Fried translated by Stuart Hood

When I had lost  
my first country  
and when in my second country  
and in my place of refuge  
and in my third country  
and in my second place of refuge  
I had lost everything  
then I set out

to look for a land  
that was not poisoned  
by any memories  
of irreplaceable losses

So I came to Paradise  
there I found peace  
Everything was whole and good  
I lacked for nothing

Then a sentry  
with a flaming sword  
said: Pray: Get away  
Here you have lost nothing'

### **Pray: Deliver Me**

From the cowardice  
that dare not face new truth,

From the laziness  
that is contented with half truth,

From the arrogance

that thinks it knows all truth.

Good Lord,  
deliver me!

## Day 33

### The Journey

Mary Oliver

One day you finally knew  
what you had to do, and began,  
though the voices around you  
kept shouting  
their bad advice--  
though the whole house  
began to tremble  
and you felt the old tug  
at your ankles.  
"Mend my life!"  
each voice cried.  
But you didn't stop.  
You knew what you had to do,  
though the wind pried  
with its stiff fingers  
at the very foundations,  
though their melancholy  
was terrible.  
It was already late  
enough, and a wild night,  
and the road full of fallen  
branches and stones.  
But little by little,  
as you left their voices behind,  
the stars began to burn  
through the sheets of clouds,  
and there was a new voice  
which you slowly  
recognized as your own,  
that kept you company  
as you strode deeper and deeper  
into the world,  
determined to do  
the only thing you could do--  
determined to save  
the only life you could save.



## **Pray: Psalm 38**

O Lord,  
all my longing  
is surely known to You,  
all my sighing  
cannot be hidden from You.

My heart throbs...  
My strength fails...  
The light of my eyes  
is going out...

I am hurting,  
and my pain is ever with me.

For You, O Lord,  
I will wait.  
In You, O Lord,  
I will trust.

Do not forsake me,  
Do not be so far from me,  
Come closer to me,  
Quickly!  
Help me.  
You, O Lord,  
are my only hope.

## **Day 34**

### **Search**

Langston Hughes

All life is but the climbing of a hill  
To seek the sun that ranges far beyond  
Confused with stars and lesser lights anon,  
And planets where the darkness reigneth still.

All life is but the seeking for that sun  
That never lets one living atom die –  
That flames beyond the circles of the eye  
Where Never and Forever are as one.

And seeking always through this human span  
That spreads its drift of years beneath the sky  
Confused with living, goeth simple man  
Unknowing and unknown into the Why –  
The Why that flings itself beyond the Sun  
And back in space to where Time was begun.

### **Pray: Precious Lord**

Thomas A. Dorsey 1938

Precious Lord  
take my hand  
lead me on  
help me stand.

I am tired.  
I am weak.  
I am worn.

Through the storm  
through the night  
lead me on  
to the light.

When my way grows drear  
precious Lord linger near.

When my life is almost gone...

hear my cry  
hear my call  
hold my hand  
lest I fall.

Take my hand  
precious Lord  
lead me home.

## **Day 35**

### **Riveted**

Robyn Sarah

It is possible that things will not get better  
than they are now, or have been known to be.

It is possible that we are past the middle now.  
It is possible that we have crossed the great water  
without knowing it, and stand now on the other side.  
Yes: I think that we have crossed it. Now  
we are being given tickets, and they are not  
tickets to the show we had been thinking of,  
but to a different show, clearly inferior.

Check again: it is our own name on the envelope.  
The tickets are to that other show.

It is possible that we will walk out of the darkened hall  
without waiting for the last act: people do.  
Some people do. But it is probable  
that we will stay seated in our narrow seats  
all through the tedious dénouement  
to the unsurprising end — riveted, as it were;  
spellbound by our own imperfect lives  
because they are lives,  
and because they are ours.

### **Pray: As The Rain**

Alistair MacLean

As the rain  
hides the stars,  
as the autumn mist  
hides the hills,  
as the clouds veil  
the blue of the sky,  
so the dark  
happenings  
of my life  
hide the shining  
of Your face  
from me.

I am reaching out to You.

If You will let me  
take hold of Your hand,  
though I may stumble,  
I will not fall,  
because You,  
unfailing,

never falter.

## **Day 36**

### **A Great Pilgrimage**

Kabir

I felt in need of a great pilgrimage  
so I sat still for three  
days

and God came  
to me.

### **Pray: Guide Me**

William Williams, 1745

Guide me  
O Thou  
Great Jehovah.

I am a pilgrim  
in a barren land.

I am weak  
but Thou art mighty.

Hold me

with Your  
powerful hand.

## **Day 37**

### **Lost**

David Wagoner

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you  
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,  
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,  
Must ask permission to know it and be known.  
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,  
I have made this place around you.  
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.

No two trees are the same to Raven.  
No two branches are the same to Wren.  
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,  
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows  
Where you are. You must let it find you.

### **Pray: Psalm 40**

I waited for You,  
and You heard my cry.  
You picked me up  
from the mire I was in,  
from the bog that was my life.

You picked me up  
and put me on solid ground.

You put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to You.

I will sing a new song,  
for You,  
to You,  
because of You.

## **Day 38**

### **Poem**

Wendell Berry

Willing to die  
you give up  
your will, keep still  
until, moved  
by what moves  
all else, you move.

### **Pray: John 12:27-28**

Father,  
my soul is troubled,  
What shall I say?  
“Save me from this hour?”

No.

Your purpose is lived out  
in this moment.

For Your purpose,  
I have come to this place,  
this time,  
this moment.

I,

Here,

Now,

for You.

Glorify Your Name  
in me.

## **Day 39**

### **Our journey had advanced**

Emily Dickinson

Our journey had advanced.  
Our feet were almost come  
To that odd fork in Being's road  
"Eternity" by term.

Our pace took sudden awe.  
Our feet reluctant led.  
Before were cities, but between  
The forest of the dead.

Retreat was out of hope,  
Behind, a sealed route,  
"Eternity's" white flag before,  
And God at every gate.

### **Pray: God Be With Me**

God be with me,

before me,  
behind me,  
in me,  
beneath me,  
above me,  
on my right,  
on my left,  
where I lie,  
where I sit,  
where I rise,  
in my heart,  
in my mouth,  
in my ears,  
in my eyes,

God be with me.

## **Day 40**

### **I called through your door**

Rumi

I called through your door,  
“The prayerful ones  
are gathering in the street.  
Something huge is  
happening.  
Come out!”

You called back,  
“Leave me alone.  
I’m ill.”

I yell in return,  
“I don’t care if you’re dead!  
Come out!  
Jesus is here.  
And he wants  
to resurrect somebody!”

### **Pray: How Great Thou Art**

Carl Gustav Boberg 1885

English Version Stuart K. Hine 1953

O Lord my God  
when I

in awesome wonder  
consider  
all the works  
Thy hands have made

I see  
the stars  
I hear  
the rolling thunder  
Your power throughout  
the universe displayed...

Then sings my soul  
my Savior God  
to Thee  
how great Thou art!  
how great Thou art!