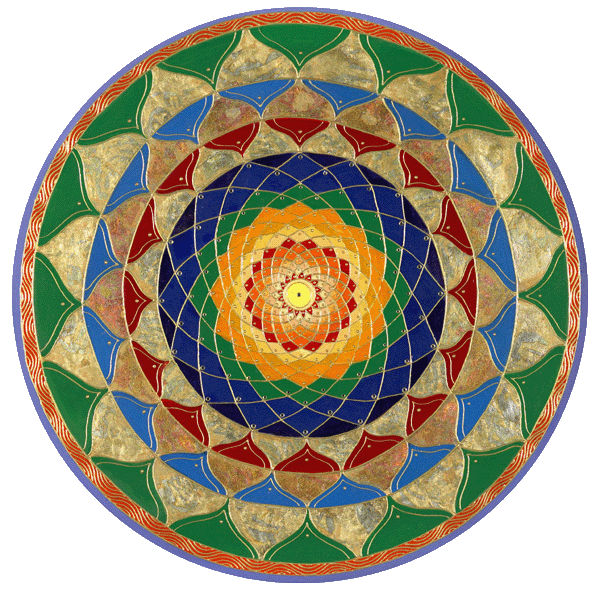
**Reflection for Monday, August 21, 2023**



Sunday afternoon. I am writing from the utter quiet of my house. Occasionally, I hear the dog sigh in another room, but mostly my immediate world rests in silence.

Elsewhere: combatants are fighting in Ukraine, an earthquake has just hit Ojai, a hurricane is sending rain through Baja and Southern California and onward. The last remaining members of the Piripkura tribe have been found in Brazil. A Parasitic Jaeger (beautiful bird) is staying, out of season, on Half Moon Bay. Wildfires continue to burn in Canada.

Yet it remains quiet here.

We are all existing in a whirlwind of events—quite overwhelming, isn’t it? But to be awakened as people of faith is to accept the healing quiet when it comes, and to let our consciousness open to the infinite energies of creation. Tumult side by side with tranquility. A fleeting moment riding the wave of eternity. Grief encountering hope and love.

There are days when I just want to retreat into distraction. (Some days, yes, I succumb to watching bunches of animal videos on Instagram.). But amid all the chaos and jangled nerves, I do sometimes find myself pausing to welcome God’s healing quiet: Be still and know that God is here.

Of course I hope you encounter God in color, dancing, and noise. But an alternative welcome is always there, to collect yourself after a busy day, to listen, and to hear: *nothing*.

Blessings on us when we can step out of the busyness and into the quiet “nothing” of the moment. There, we can sense that what we are experiencing is not God’s absence, but God’s patient, loving renewal.

In faith,

Elizabeth

Announcements

**Hope Solutions Back Drive** was a huge success. See below from Sandibel Arnold at Hope Solutions:

“I am happy to let you know that we reached our goal of collecting/packing 629 backpacks for the children in our programs. All backpacks have made their way to the children in our programs to prepare them for a successful school year.”

“I am also happy to let you know that we received monetary donations from people at your church in support of our backpack drive. Thank you so much for spreading the word about our backpack drive and for all of your continuous support.”

**Brian, please add to upcoming Events the note that people wishing to share an electric vehicle should contact Nancy:**

**Electric Vehicle Celebration Show October 15th** **during Fellowship Time**. If you have any kind of electric vehicle you would like to show off during this event please sign up with Nancy Thursby:

[nlthursby@comast.net](mailto:nlthursby@comast.net)