

## Opening Worship Saturday VCM 21

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have been in the wilderness—

All: **Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.**

One: We have been in the wilderness—

All: **Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.**

One: We have been in the wilderness—

All: **Longing and running, creating and waiting.**

One: We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone; for God walks with us, every step of the way.

All: **So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.**

One: Let us worship Holy God.

All: **Amen**

I would like to share short poem by Mary Oliver. I love it because she reminds us in her own gentle way that we are only a tiny part of God's creation but we are responsible for its stewardship so it may be enjoyed by those with whom we share it and those who will come after.

### The Other Kingdoms

Consider the other kingdoms. The trees, for example, with their mellow-sounding titles: oak, aspen, willow.

Or the snow, for which the peoples of the north have dozens of words to describe its different arrivals. Or the creatures, with their thick fur, their shy and wordless gaze. Their infallible sense of what their lives are meant to be. Thus the world grows rich, grows wild, and you too, grow rich, grow sweetly wild, as you too were born to be. - Mary Oliver

A reading from Psalm 65:5-13

By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas;  
the one who by his strength established the mountains,  
being girded with might;  
who stills the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples,  
so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.  
You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.  
You visit the earth and water it;  
you greatly enrich it;  
the river of God is full of water;  
you provide their grain,  
for so you have prepared it.  
You water its furrows abundantly,  
settling its ridges,  
softening it with showers,  
and blessing its growth.  
You crown the year with your bounty;  
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.  
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,  
the hills gird themselves with joy,  
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,  
the valleys deck themselves with grain,  
they shout and sing together for joy.

(Name) will lead us in Prayers for the Day Ahead

Leader: A new song rises from the wilderness,  
rising from the Bride who leans on her Beloved,

from the Church who leans on her Christ.  
Do you hear it?  
A new song rises in the wilderness:

**All: We sing: All our springs are in you**

Leader: In the place of lack we find contentment.  
Only you could provide a feast in the wilderness.  
We will sing of your provision;

**All: We sing: All our springs are in you**

Leader: Fountains burst from hardened ground  
as your Spirit heals the wilderness,  
turning forsaken lands to verdant gardens.  
We will sing of your redemption;

**All: We sing: All our springs are in you.**

Leader: A people divided are united;  
enemies become family.  
What was broken comes back together.  
We will sing of our reconciliation;

**All: We sing: All our springs are in you**

Leader: Let these dry bones be renewed,  
the broken-hearted sing a new song  
of He who heals all our diseases.  
We will sing of your deliverance;

**All: We sing: All our springs are in you.**

Leader: Disappointments and sighing flee away;  
the deepest of valley-pains are seedbeds

of the greatest harvest of joy.  
We will sing of your resurrection;

**All: We sing: All our springs are in you.**

Please join me in prayer.

**Jesus, you are the way through the wilderness: show us your  
truth in which we journey, and by the grace of the Holy Spirit be  
in us the life that draws us to God. Amen.**

(source: F.B. McNutt, The Prayer Manual [London: Mowbray, 1961], p. 29, adapted)