



A new space

The empty space of an open door

God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. (*Psalm 90:1-2*)



Reading material:

Audio: *Adult Christianity* (CD), Richard Rohr and Ronald Rolheiser (tracks 3 & 4).
<http://www.agapeministries.co.uk/node/210>

Book*: *Celtic Daily Prayer*, pp 225-226 of 2005 edition. Midlife appraisal, on an extract from *Gift from the sea* by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Poetry: Wild Geese and/or The Journey in *Dream Work*, Mary Oliver

Song: *Song to a seagull*, Joni Mitchell: 'I had a king' chorus

Scripture: Exodus 3:8, Psalm 121:8

Photograph: Sven Schlager, unsplash.com

Prayer

Tonight I will sleep beneath your feet, O Lord of the mountains and valleys, ruler of the trees and vines. I will rest in your love, with you protecting me as a father protects his children, with you watching over me as a mother watches over her children. Tomorrow the sun will rise and I will not know where I am; but I know that you will guide my footsteps. (*A Sioux prayer, Imaging the word, volume 3*)

Questions

If you were to imagine finding a well at which Jesus awaits you at each stage of your life, how might you envisage the interaction going?

What stage(s) comes to mind? What brings you there? What would you want to say?

(*A reworking of a Pierre Talec prayer*)

A life re-appraised

It has been said that for transformation to occur we need to feel safe and be in some form of conflict. If so, when we pause and sit with the thought, Do I feel safe?, where does that take us?

“The signs that presage growth are so similar, it seems to me, to those in early adolescence: discontent, restlessness, doubt, despair, longing. But now these are interpreted falsely [*later in life*] as signs of decay. In youth one does not as often misinterpret the signs: one accepts them quite rightly, as growing pains. One takes them seriously, listens to them, follows where they lead. One is afraid. Naturally. Who is not afraid of pure space - that breathtaking empty space of an open door? But despite fear, one goes through to the room beyond...But in middle age, because of the false assumption that it is a period of decline one interprets these life-signs, paradoxically, as signs of approaching death. Instead of facing them, one runs away. Anything rather than face them. Anything rather than stand still and learn from them. One tries to cure the signs of growth: to exorcise them, as if they were devils.”

(*Ann Morrow Lindbergh, extract**)

We then ask, what of Lindbergh's signs do you detect? Have you been interpreting these signs correctly?

The Coracle Trust - Helping transition in faith through the life stages

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