

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God



Darkness, fear, rigidity...these have been called out, called down and overcome by the gospel of Jesus. Why then are they so often seen as valid options for doing the work of Christianity? Why are we so alone and adrift without an enemy to provide us ample anti-energy?

Look at the words Shirley Erena Murray has found for us in the gospel. Look who she has discovered to be the teacher of this Way. The Spirit of God is the teacher and excite, engage, inspire and delight are the new subjects of focus and means of formation. New?...Yes, in the ways “new” functions in the term Good News. Murray reminds us not just of a new vocabulary, however. She reminds us of a new language, and uses it in her hymn. This is the new language Jesus was teaching in His great “you have heard it said, but I say” lesson on the mount.

Might we, as a result of our worship, forsake a frightened and angry vocabulary and replace it with a language of love? There is, after all, no fear in love. Murray is betting a hymn on it and so are those who select and sing it. Think of it...new “artistry” (images), new “harmonies” (alliances) for the living of what God continues to teach us. Dance and leap and flight are needed when march and step and follow have been conscripted.

This hymn is a prayer. Prayer is foundational to learning for the Christ-follower.

Terry W. York
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