

Prayers and Remembrances by Stephen Paulus (1948 – 2014)

I. **They are all Gone** (Henry Vaughan, 1621-1695)

They are all gone, into the world of light!
And I alone sit lingering here;
Their very memory is fair and bright,
And my sad thoughts doth clear.
It glows and glitters in my cloudy breast,
Like stars upon some gloomy grove.
I see them walking in an air of glory,
Whose light doth trample on my days.
O holy Hope, and high Humility!
High as the heavens above!
And yet, as angels in some brighter dreams
Call to the soul when man doth sleep,
So some strange thought transcend our wonted themes,
And into glory peep.
O Father of eternal life, and all
Created glories under Thee!
Resume Thy spirit from this world of thrall
Into true liberty.

II. **Lord, Make me an Instrument** (St. Francis of Assisi, c. 1181-1226)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
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.

III. **Music, When soft voices die** (Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1792-1822)

Music, when soft voices die,
Vibrates in the memory;
Odours, when sweet violets sicken,
Live within the sense they quicken.

Rose leaves, when the rose is dead,
Are heap'd for the beloved's bed;
And so thy thoughts, when thou art gone,
Love itself shall slumber on.

IV. **Great Spirit** (trans. John Yellow Lark)

Oh, Great spirit, whose voice I hear in the wind,
Whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear me! I come to you as one of your many children.
I am small and weak.
I need your strength and your wisdom.
May I walk in beauty.
Make my eyes behold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things that you have made,
And my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I may know the things
That you have taught your children –
The lessons that you have hidden in every leaf and rock.
Make me strong, not to be superior to my brothers,
But to be able to fight
My greatest enemy: myself.
Make me ever ready to come to you with straight eyes, so that
When life fades as the faded sunset
My spirit will come to you without shame.

V. **In Beauty it Walks** (Traditional Navajo Prayer)

As I walk, the universe is walking with me.
In beauty, it walks before me.
In beauty, it walks behind me.
In beauty, it walks below me.
In beauty, it walks above me.
Beauty is on every side.
As I walk, I walk with Beauty.

VI. **Eternity** (William Blake, 1757-1827)

He who bends to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy;
But he who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in eternity's sunrise.

VII. **Grant that we may Love** (Hebrew – Leviticus 19:18) Mohammed (c. 570-632)

V'ahavta l'reiacha kamocho.
(Love others as you love yourself.)

O Lord, grant us to love Thee;
Grant that we may love those that love Thee;
Grant that we may do the deeds that win Thy love.
Make the love of Thee be dearer to us than ourselves,
Make the love of Thee be dearer to us than our families,
Than wealth, and even than cool water.