

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

INTERMISSION

At intermission, we take a break from the play or concert, to stretch a little, perhaps find some refreshment, often visiting with others about what we've seen and heard. And so it is with this time of intermission. We pause a moment to reflect on what we've seen and heard from the Lord during times of devotion, worship, and listening.

The hymn for this time, *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, contains text by Englishman Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885) that has been used in the liturgy of Anglican community, as well as in the Catholic and Lutheran churches for more than a century, particularly during the Advent Season.

The hymn writer, Gerard Moultrie, calls for us to keep silence, and to stand with fear and trembling when we are aware that we are in the presence of God.

What are some ways that you respond when you enter into the presence of God?

What do you think is an appropriate response? What might be considered inappropriate?

And what does it take for you to focus on him?

How do you "ponder nothing earthly minded," as Moultrie put it?

As the music plays, think about these things.

In the second verse, Moultrie writes of how this King of kings comes as one of us, "Lord of lords, in human "clothing," with a body that lives and bleeds as ours do.

What do you think the writer intends when he says, "He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food"?

That he gives us himself to consume so that he might live in us, and thus, live through us?

Do you believe Christ lives in you?

What does that mean?

What does that look like?

In the third verse of the hymn, we are reminded that Christ brings with him the host of Heaven, the eternal power and light that defeats even the forces of hell itself.

Do you believe that this power is here with you now?

Do you believe that the power of God is available to you, to fight and defeat the forces of evil that besiege you now?

Are you under attack right now?

Can you ask the Spirit to fight for you?

Do you believe that He can defeat your enemies?

And the hymn ends with worship, as all who are in his presence and who have seen him in all his glory and all his power, cry out with ceaseless voice, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High! Now consider how you might incorporate silence, the fear of God, an awareness of the power of God to defeat the Evil One, into your worship today and tomorrow and in the days to come. Praise be to the one who is God, who is with us, who overcomes our enemies, who is King of kings, and Lord of lords, Forever! AMEN!