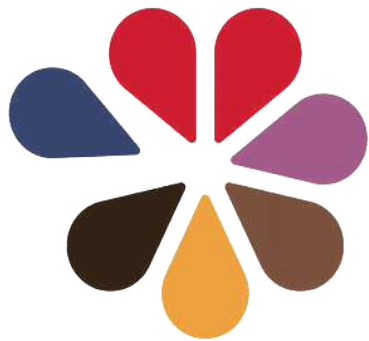
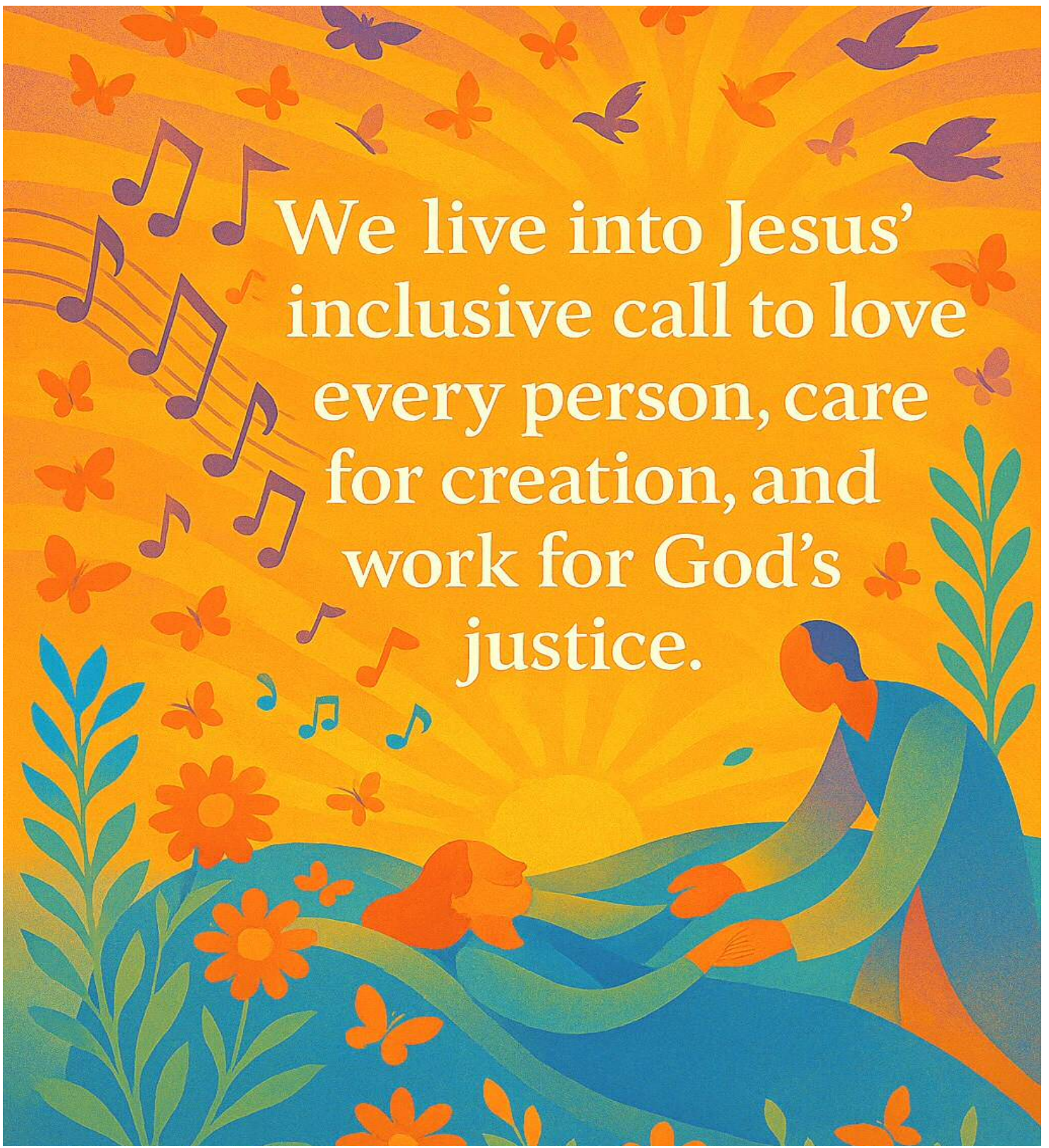




DOWNTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We live into Jesus'
inclusive call to love
every person, care
for creation, and
work for God's
justice.



Celebration of Worship

May 11, 2025, 11:00 AM

Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

[Click Here to Watch](#)

*If you have a joy or concern you would like to have lifted in prayer today, please complete a **Prayer Request Card**, including the name of the person (and pronunciation) or event, and additional information you'd like to share.*

*Prayer Requests will be collected in baskets during the **hymn following the sermon** to share with the pastor and/or Deacons.*

Prelude

The Quiet Center

A Congregational Improvisation

Words of Welcome

Nancy Brown

Announcements

David Lee

Chime

Introit

Blessed Be

Melanie DeMore

"Ref: Blessed be the tree of life that grows within you and me.

Steady and true, rooted in love. Shelter and peace below and above.

Sing to the sky, rise from the earth. Seasons come round again, death to rebirth."

*Call to Worship

Leader: We, both guests and hosts, settle into the welcome, anticipating the bounty and beauty of the unfolding Spring.

All: Radically equalized — no longer outcasts, but, beloved, fed, acknowledged, and comforted.

Leader: We thank you for your source of unending generosity and grace.

All: We ask You to be with us as we practice hospitality and healing.

Help us to write new rules to unleash our minds and spirits to continue the transformation of your church and your world.

*Invocation

All: Holy One, draw us into community and connection. Let us embrace You and our companions in worship. Give us courage. Keep us open to the unexpected, to the "holy surprise," so that we may be your work in the world. Amen.

*Hymn

Come and Find the Quiet Center
(*Music may be found on page 6.*)

BEACH SPRING

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**All: We are here because we are companions on a journey.
Within each of us lives the conviction of a faith in You that could
heal our broken planet and illuminate the lives of all of your children,
if we see them through YOUR eyes without prejudgment, or perhaps
without judgment at all. We, who would heal the planet, must learn
to heal our own hearts; so we might illuminate the lives of our most
Beloved companions and friends. Forgive us our lack of courage
and imagination.**

Assurance of Grace

God's grace is beyond knowing.
God's love is beyond measuring.
The gospel confirms the wholeness available to us and within us.
In Jesus, we are encouraged, inspired, and forgiven.
All: Thanks be to God.

Reading

The Chance to Love Everything
(See insert.)

Mary Oliver

Time with Children and Youth

Music Recognition

Music for Reflection

They Are Mother
(See insert for text.)

Jennifer Lucy Cook

Scripture Reading

Acts 9:36-41

Message

Be Brave

Nancy Brown

*Hymn

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound
(*Verses 1-4, Music may be found on page 7.*)

MCKEE

Joys and Concerns

Prayers for Healing and Justice

Prayer of Jesus (unison)

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Music

Wake Up, My Spirit

Adolphus Hailstork

"Wake up, my spirit! I, myself, will waken the dawn.

Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, and Your glory over all the earth.

Awake, lute and harp. I will sing praise to You among the nations.

I will sing melody; I will sing alleluia!"

Text: Psalm 57:6-9 (New English Bible)

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Let songs rise up from earth below;

Let stars and galaxies enthrone;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One! Amen

*Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, our lives overflow with your blessing. Through this offering, teach us to give freely and joyously to others, that we may help to build a world that reflects your beloved community. A world where justice rolls down like waters, where abundance is shared, and where all people have enough. We make this prayer in your name. Amen.

*Hymn

Together We Serve

SAN ANSELMO

(Verses 1, 2, and 4, Music may be found on page 8.)

*Benediction (unison)

Adapted from the Louisville Presbyterian
Theological Seminary Baccalaureate 1995

Because the world is poor and starving, bake the bread.
Because the world is filled with fears, be brave.
Because the world is in despair, offer hope.
Because the world is living lies, speak the truth.
Because the world is sick with sorrow, skip with joy.
Because the world is weary of wars, practice peace.
Because the world is seldom fair, be the justice.
Because the world is under judgment, act with mercy.
Because the world will die without it, LOVE!

Postlude

Firework Music
4. Bourrée & 5. Minuet Finale

G.F. Handel
Arr. E. Power Biggs

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Thank you to...

Guest Worship Leader: Nancy Brown

Liturgist: David Lee

Chancel Choir Members

Soprano: Nicole Knickerbocker, Lindsey Puc, Carolina Sullivan, Joan Sussman

Alto: Cecelia Allchin, Isabella Apodaca, Leah Rosenman

Tenor: Olivia Anderson, Jason Cloen, Mark Darling, Evan McMahon

Bass: Rob Brown, John DeHority, Elijah Gebers,

Alan Jones, Stephen Lloyd, Sumner Tessier

Live Stream Team: Don Fairman, David McDowell, Jim Parks, Sally Allison

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477 Come and Find the Quiet Center

F Gm F Dm Bb C Bb F

1 Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
2 Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
3 In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,

F Gm F Dm Bb C7 Bb F

find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:

F C Dm F Bb

clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
making space with-in our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,

C Dm Bb F Gm Am Bb F

all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)

MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D.

Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Company.

Music Arr. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound



1 The church of Christ can - not be bound by
 2 True faith will o - pen up the door and
 3 True love will not sit i - dly by when
 4 If what we have we free - ly share to
 5 The church of Christ can - not be bound by



walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and
 step in - to the street. True ser - vice will seek
 jus - tice is de - nied. True mer - cy hears the
 meet our neigh - bor's need, then we ex - tend the
 walls of wood or stone. Where char - i - ty and



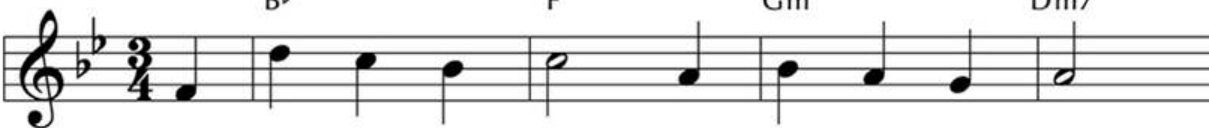
love are found, there can the church be known.
 out the poor and ask to wash their feet.
 home - less cry and wel - comes them in - side.
 Spir - it's care through ev - ery self - less deed.
 love are found, there can the church be known.

This text was the winning entry in a hymnwriting competition seeking new texts dealing with poverty and homelessness, but as the stanza sung at the beginning and end of the hymn makes clear, such specific ministries grow out of an understanding of the church as love in action.

Together We Serve

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Capo 3: (G) B $\flat$ (D) F (Em) Gm (Bm7) Dm7



1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
 2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
 3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
 4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) E $\flat$ (G) B $\flat$ (Am7) Cm7 (Dsus) (D) Fsus F



in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
 a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
 the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
 re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) B $\flat$ (D) F (C) E $\flat$ (Bm) Dm



We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
 We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
 We of - fer a home to those who will come,
 To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) B $\flat$ (C) E $\flat$ (G) B $\flat$ (Am) Cm (D7) F7 (G) B $\flat$



ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
 un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
 our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
 re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.



This Week at Downtown United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day/Music Recognition

- 9:15AM Sunday Forum-Implicit
Bias (Part 1) - David Scott
- 10:00AM Choir Warm-up
- 10:45AM Nursery
- 11:00AM Worship - Nancy Brown
- 11:15AM Sunday School
- 12:00PM Cake in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 13

- 10:30AM Bible Study via Zoom
- 6:30PM Deacons Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, May 14

- 3:00PM DEIB Meeting via Zoom

Thursday, May 15

- 10:00AM Personnel Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, May 18

- 9:15AM Sunday Forum-Implicit
Bias (Part 1) - David Scott
- 10:45AM Nursery
- 11:00AM Worship-Rev. Celie Katovich
- 11:15AM Sunday School
- 12:00PM Refreshments in Sanctuary
- 7:00PM Sophia Circle via Zoom



Sunday Forums in May 2025

“We Live Into Jesus’ Inclusive Call”

May 4 - Building Minds in South Sudan (BMISS) Update!

Sebastian Maroundit

Come hear about the ongoing work, the challenges, the progress, and the joy and fulfillment experienced because of the work BMISS continues to do. Sebastian will provide an update on the schools, the new well, and the people whose lives are being positively affected.



May 11 - Implicit Bias (Part 1)

David Scott, Chief Diversity Officer, Monroe County Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Join us a half hour earlier at *9:15AM and take part in this special 90-minute Forum led by skilled facilitator David Scott. What is Implicit Bias and how do we recognize and work to overcome it? His professional and nonjudgmental approach has been commended by staff and congregation members who have recently worked with him.

May 18 - Implicit Bias (Part 2)

David Scott, Chief Diversity Officer, Monroe County Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Come again at *9:15AM for this special 90-minute Forum that will build on the information and work done the previous Sunday. You will want to come for both Sundays, but you need not attend the first one to attend Part Two.



May 25 - No Sunday Forum—Memorial Day Weekend

Sundays, *9:45 AM ~ The Shaw Room

(*Unless otherwise indicated)

We live into Jesus' inclusive call to love all people,
care for creation, and work for God's Justice.

Welcome Visitors!

Nursery Care for children up to 2nd Grade is available. Drop off children in the library before services start. The nursery is in C-23.

Children in Sunday School will attend worship and are invited to "Time with Our Children and Youth" for a brief time with the pastor, and then will be taken up to their classroom by their teacher. Parents are welcome to come up as well.

You may place your offering in the offering plates as they are passed. If you would like to donate online you can use the QR code to the right to make your contribution to the church.



† **We seek** to use diverse images and liberating language about divine presence in our services of worship. Please feel free to adapt the words in hymns and prayers as needed so that they express your faith.

This is a Hearing Loop equipped sanctuary – please switch your hearing aid to the "T" (telephone) position.

* **An asterisk indicates** "please rise in body or spirit."

We hope you will join us after worship for conversations and refreshments! Cookies and drinks are available in the front of the sanctuary.

Joys and Concerns– If you have a joy or concern that you would like to lift in prayer today, please complete a Prayer Request card (available by the worship bulletins) naming the person(s), situation or event, and any other information that you would like to be shared. The prayer requests will be collected during the hymn following the sermon and provided to the pastor.

The Downtown Church Staff

Cheryl Bittle, Weekend Receptionist
Jason Cloen, Associate Musician
Eileen Dietsch, Director of Operations
Alan Jones, Associate Musician
Kristie Jones, Office Administrator
David Mear, Business Manager
Moses Nhial, Maintenance
Penelope Paredes,
Nursery Coordinator

Andrea Piccone, Bookkeeper
& Receptionist Coordinator
Tyrone Reeves, Maintenance
Robin Sheikh, Sunday School Teacher
Michael Stagles, Maintenance Lead
Joseph Taylor, Maintenance Supervisor
Ed Verna, Maintenance
Lee S. Wright, D.M.A.,
Director of Music Ministry

Parish Leaders

Mary Rees and Pat Tweet - Clerks of Session
Cindy Hamilton, Jacque Hancock - co-Moderators of Deacons

Session

The Rev. Val Fowler,
Moderator
Nancy Brown
John DeHority

Lea Kone
Bob Richane
Sally Allison
Sam King

Jim Vesper
Pat Tweet
Mary Rees

Deacons

Bob Carlisle
Andrea Folan
Helen Ganotis
Cindy Hamilton

Jacque Hancock
Elizabeth Katz
Stephen Lloyd
Grania Marcus
Sandy Morales

Becky Parks
Susan Richane
Kelley Sheils
Marilyn Terpening

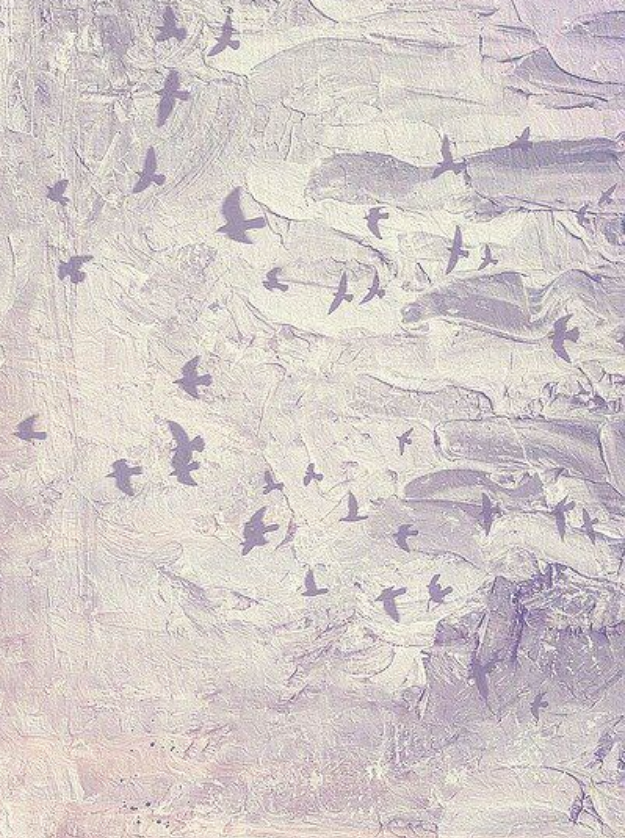
121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14614
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www.DowntownPresbyterian.org



The Chance to Love Everything

by Mary Oliver

All summer I made friends
with the creatures nearby --
they flowed through the fields
and under the tent walls,
or padded through the door,
grinning through their many teeth,
looking for seeds,
suet, sugar; muttering and humming,
opening the breadbox, happiest when
there was milk and music. But once
in the night I heard a sound
outside the door, the canvas
bulged slightly — something
was pressing inward at eye level.
I watched, trembling, sure I had heard
the click of claws, the smack of lips
outside my gauzy house —
I imagined the red eyes,
the broad tongue, the enormous lap.
Would it be friendly too?
Fear defeated me. And yet,
not in faith and not in madness
but with the courage I thought
my dream deserved,
I stepped outside. It was gone.
Then I whirled at the sound of some
shambling tonnage.
Did I see a black haunch slipping
back through the trees? Did I see
the moonlight shining on it?
Did I actually reach out my arms
toward it, toward paradise falling, like
the fading of the dearest, wildest hope —
the dark heart of the story that is all
the reason for its telling?



They Are Mother

*What shall I call this force I know
Who do I come to when I wonder
The space that holds me when I'm low
More than a parent, friend, or lover*

*They are Mover, They are Maker,
They are Mother, mm, They are Mother, mm*

*They are the breath I see in cold
The ready muscle in the sprinter
They are the glitter and the gold
The steady heat lamp in the winter*

*They are Mover, They are Maker,
They are Mother, mm, They are Mother, mm*

*They nod and know
They need nothing
They're god and grow
They bleed blessings*

*They are solitude
They are multitude
They are gratitude
Gratitude*

*Laugh lines around the all-seeing eye
And I can lean into the sky*

*What shall I call this force I know
Who do I come to when I wonder*

*They are Mover, They are Maker,
They are Mother, mm, They are Mother, mm
They are Mother, mm, They are Mother, mm, They are Mother, mm. . .*

– Jennifer Lucy Cook