

Pray

Theresa Novak

Novak is a second-year student at Starr King School. This poem was written in May 2004.

Pray with me now,
If you will.
I think
We need
To pray.

Pray with me now,
Not out to some great intervener,
A handsome stranger,
Coming to the rescue.
You don't have to barter your soul,
Your mind, your free and restless spirit.
Pray with me now.

We need to pray loudly sometimes
Giving voice with word or gesture.
To the urgent fires within our hearts.
Screaming out, "why this?"
"How long?"
Screaming out for help, for courage.
Outrage rumbles through our veins
And the pulse of our prayer is ragged.

Pray with me now,
If you will,
I think
We need
To pray.

We need to pray softly sometimes
Our silent bodies held still
A quiet hope rising to the wind
Blowing about the world in wonder.

Pray with me now.
Pray silently or out loud.
Our very prayers are an answer
The pulse of life, of hope
In our so very human hearts.
May our prayers be heard.