

## Pathways Monthly Prayer Readings

April 2026



Mary Oliver (1935-2019) was an American poet who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1984. She found inspiration for her work in nature and had a lifelong habit of solitary walks in the wild. Her poetry is characterized by wonderment at the natural environment, vivid imagery, and unadorned language.

Wednesday, April 1  
Lectio Divina

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne. Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give up.  
Hebrews 12:1-3 (CEB)

Thursday, April 2  
Centering Prayer

I love you, O God, because you have heard the voice  
of my supplication,  
Because you have inclined your ear to me whenever  
I called upon you. Psalm 116:1 (St. Helena Psalter)

Tuesday, April 7  
Contemplative Sit

**I Worried** 2010  
I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers  
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn  
as it was taught, and if not, how shall  
I correct it?  
  
Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,  
can I do better?  
  
Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows  
can do it and I am, well,  
hopeless.  
  
Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,

	<p>am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?</p> <p>Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing. And gave it up. And took my old body and went out into the morning, and sang.</p>	
<p>Wednesday, April 8 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>Peter raised his voice and addressed them... “Listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you... you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.” Acts 2:14a, 22, 24 (CEB)</p>	
<p>Thursday, April 9 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>I will bless you, O God, who gives me counsel, my heart teaches me, night after night... For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the Pit. You will show me the path of life, in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16:7, 10-11 (St. Helena Psalter)</p>	
<p>Tuesday, April 14 Contemplative Sit</p>	<p><b>Don't Hesitate</b> 2010 If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give into it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.</p>	

<p>Wednesday, April 15 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>Those who accepted Peter's message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day. The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. Acts 2:41-42 (CEB)</p>	
<p>Thursday, April 16 Centering Prayer</p>	<p>Praise God, all you nations, laud the Most High, all you peoples. For God's loving kindness toward us is great, and the faithfulness of God endures forever. Alleluia! Psalm 117 (St. Helena Psalter)</p>	
<p>Tuesday, April 21 Contemplative Sit</p>	<p><b>When I am Among the Trees</b> 2006 When I am among the trees, especially the willows and the honey locust, equally the beech, the oaks and the pines, they give off such hints of gladness, I would almost say that they save me, and daily.</p> <p>I am so distant from the hope of myself, in which I have goodness, and discernment, and never hurry through the world but walk slowly, and bow often.</p> <p>Around me the trees stir in their leaves and call out, "Stay awhile." The light flows from their branches.</p> <p>And they call again, "It's simple," they say, "and you too have come into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine."</p>	
<p>Wednesday, April 22 Lectio Divina</p>	<p>All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.</p>	

	<p>Day by day,  as they spent much time together in the temple,  they broke bread at home and ate their food  with glad and generous hearts,  praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.  Acts 2:44-47 (NRSV)</p>	
<p>Thursday, April 23  Centering Prayer</p>	<p>You spread a table before me in the presence of those  who trouble me;  you have anointed my head with oil,  and my cup is running over.  Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me  all the days of my life,  and I will dwell in the house of God forever.  Psalm 23:5-6 (St. Helena Psalter)</p>	
<p>Tuesday, April 28  Contemplative Sit</p>	<p><b>What Gorgeous Thing 2014</b>  I do not know what gorgeous thing  the bluebird keeps saying,  his voice easing out of his throat,  beak, body into the pink air  of the early morning. I like it  whatever it is. Sometimes  it seems the only thing in the world  that is without dark thoughts.  Sometimes it seems the only thing  in the world that is without  questions that can't and probably  never will be answered, the  only thing that is entirely content  with the pink, then clear white  morning and, gratefully, says so.</p>	
<p>Wednesday, April 29  Lectio Divina</p>	<p>But filled with the Holy Spirit,  Stephen gazed into heaven  and saw the glory of God and Jesus  standing at the right hand of God.  "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened  and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"  Acts 7:55-56 (NRSV)</p>	

Thursday, April 30 Centering Prayer	You are my God. My times are in your hand, rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me. Make your face to shine upon your servant, and in your loving-kindness, save me. Psalm 31:15-16	
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**Mindful** 2004

Every day

I see or hear  
something

that more or less

kills me

with delight,  
that leaves me  
like a needle

in the haystack  
of light.

It was what I was born for -  
to look, to listen,

to lose myself

inside this soft world -  
to instruct myself  
over and over

in joy,  
and acclamation.

Nor am I talking  
about the exceptional,

the fearful, the dreadful,  
the very extravagant -

but of the ordinary,  
the common, the very drab,

the daily presentations.

Oh, good scholar,  
I say to myself,

how can you help

but grow wise

with such teachings  
as these -

the untrimmable light  
of the world,  
the ocean's shine,  
the prayers that are made  
out of grass?

### **This Morning 2015**

This morning the redbirds' eggs  
have hatched and already the chicks  
are chirping for food. They don't  
know where it's coming from, they  
just keep shouting, "More! More!"  
As to anything else, they haven't  
had a single thought. Their eyes  
haven't yet opened, they know nothing  
about the sky that's waiting. Or  
the thousands, the millions of trees.  
They don't even know they have wings.

And just like that, like a simple  
neighborhood event, a miracle is  
taking place.