

Summer 2010 Check-Up

Each day in Evening Prayer I pray the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), that hymn of praise announcing the reversal of business as usual and the insertion of the reign of God into human history. The hymn is a declaration of radical trust in God's faithfulness, and profound joy in God's unexpected provision.

I can't explain what caused the shift, or when it occurred, but I began to pray this line of the Magnificat in the present tense:

... the Almighty is doing great things for me ..."

Really? How often I assume the evidence suggests otherwise! I'm caught up short each time I say these words, and I have to pause to do a mental check: What great (or hidden, or subtle, or unexpected) things is the Almighty doing for me? right now? in the present tense of my life?

You might take this phrase for your own summertime reflection. Here are some helpful questions to guide your thoughts:

1. Given the circumstances of my life right now, can I perceive what God is up to in my life? Can I name it and describe it? What's really going on for me?
2. How does God's present movement in my life fit with patterns of movement in the past?
3. How does God's present movement in my life help to shape the legacy I hope to leave?
4. How does God's movement shape my relationships? my health?
5. How does God's movement in my life shape the person I am becoming?

I encourage you this summer to sit with this phrase and engage these questions. Weave them into your summertime spiritual practice.

Please remember that you are in my prayer each day in the noon hour! If we have not talked in a while, I welcome our next "holy conversation."

In God's abiding peace,
Mary Sharon