

Meadowlark Sings and I Greet Him In Return

Meadowlark, when you sing it's as if
You lay your yellow breast upon mine and say
Hello, hello, and are we not

Of one family, in our delight of life?
You sing, I listen.
Both are necessary
If the world is to continue going around
Night-heavy then light -laden, though not
Everyone knows this or at least
Not yet,

Or, perhaps, has forgotten it
In the torn fields,

In the terrible debris of progress

Storage

When I moved from one house to another
there were many things I had no room
for. What does one do? I rented a storage
space. And filled it. Years passed.
Occasionally I went there and looked in,
but nothing happened, not a single
twinge of the heart.

As I grew older the things I cared
about grew fewer, but were more
important. So one day I undid the lock
and called the trash man. He took everything.

I felt like the little donkey when
his burden is finally lifted. Things!
Burn them, burn them! Make a beautiful
fire! More room in your heart for love,
for the trees! For the birds who own
nothing—the reason they can fly.

Readings for Worship at
CAPC Oakland on 8.17.25
Rooted in the poetry of
Mary Oliver

Matthew 6:25-34

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

[Jesus continued teaching, saying:] ²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND EXAMEN:

- How do these poems make you feel?
- How do you connect with them? How do they connect with your experience, or maybe what you’re living today?
- How do you struggle with reading the Bible?
- How do you experience the Bible as true, or containing truth?
- What do you struggle to accept as part of the way of life, of reality?
- What might the Spirit of God be saying to you, or inviting you to through today’s readings?