

Ministry of Listening

In my distress I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears.
Psalm 18: 6



Listening

When you listen you affirm me.
But your listening must be real,
sensitive and serious,
no looking around,
not with a worried or distracted frown,
not preparing what you will say next,
but giving me your full attention.
You are telling me that I am a person of value,
important and worth listening to,
one with whom you share yourself.
I have ideas to share,
feelings which too often I keep to myself,
deep questions which struggle inside me
for answers.
I have hopes only tentatively acknowledged
which are not easy to share,
and pain, guilt and fear I try to stifle.
These are sensitive areas and a real part of me,
but it takes courage to confide in another.
So let us take time together,
respecting the other's freedom,
encouraging without hurrying,
understanding that some things
may never be brought to the light
but that others may emerge if given time.
If nothing else, we are thankful for
the creative silence and holy space
between us. Amen Keith Pearson



Descend Holy Spirit of Life.
Come down into our hearts,
that we may live.
Descend into our emptiness,
that emptiness may be filled.
Descend into the dust that dust
may flower.
Descend into the dark, that light
may shine in darkness.

Amen Caryll Houselander

