Tiny
Whispering
Sound
Presenter
Fr. Timothy Brown, S.J.

Cover:
Joseph Mallord William Turner
Abstract Atmosphere

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At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave, where he took shelter. But the word of the LORD came to him, "Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by."
A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire—but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound.

1 Kings 19:9–13
The Paradox of Giving

Each of us only has what
we have given away

And what we have kept back
we have lost

And if you live long enough
you know that what we really only keep
is that which we have given away
The ancient Greek Fathers depict the Trinity as a Round Dance: an event that has continued for six thousand years, and six times six thousand, and beyond the time when humans first knew time. An infinite current of love streams without ceasing, to and fro, to and fro, to and fro: gliding from the Father to the Son, and back to the Father, in one timeless happening. This circular current of trinitarian love continues night and day…. The orderly and rhythmic process of subatomic particles spinning round and round at immense speed echoes its dynamism.

— Brother Elias Marechal
Turner, *The Great Western Railway*
God is in us, because we are in Christ. As members of the mystical body, Christians actually partake in the divine nature of the Trinity. We do not merely watch the dance, we dance the dance. We join hands with Christ and the Spirit flows through us and between us and our feet move always in the loving embrace of the Father. In that we are members of the mystical body of Christ, we see the joyful love of the Father through the eyes of the Son. And with every breath, we breathe the Holy Spirit.

— Carl McColman
Turner, Rainbow
Because the Christian God is not a lonely God, but rather a communion of three persons, faith leads human beings into the divine communion. One cannot, however, have a self-enclosed communion with the triune God—a “foursome,” as it were—for the Christian God is not a private deity. Communion with this God is at once also communion with those others who have entrusted themselves in faith to the same God. Hence one and the same act of faith places a person into a new relationship both with God and with all others who stand in communion with God.

— Miroslav Volf
Turner, *Norham Castle Sunrise*
God for us, we call you Father.  
God alongside us, we call you Jesus.  
God within us, we call you Holy Spirit.  
You are the eternal mystery that enables,  
enfolds, and enlivens all things,  
Even us and even me.  

Every name falls short of your goodness and  
greatness.  
We can only see who you are in what is.  
We ask for such perfect seeing—  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and  
ever shall be.  
Amen.
Giver

Gift

Giving

Turner, The Blue Rigi Lake of Lucerne Sunrise
From whom

by whom

within whom

Turner, *Procession of Boats with Distant Smoke*
Brightness

shining forth

fire

Turner, *Sunset on the River*
Sun

Sunlight

Sunburn

Turner, *Sun Setting over a Lake*
Lover

the beloved

love

Turner, *Landscape with a River and a Bay in the Background*
Mind

Book

Read

Turner, *Sunrise with a boat between headlands*
Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly
To love thee more dearly
To follow thee more nearly day by day

Turner, A River Seen from a Hill
Idea

Energy

Power

Turner, Waves Breaking against the Wind
To understand is to stand under
Which is to look up to
Which is a good way to understand

Turner, *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons*
God for us

To voice the mystery anew
    in contemporary idiom

God for us
draws a parabola that starts
    at the top of the page
with the hidden God in heaven
comes down the page
forth into time
and loops around
up that page again,
drawing all things into
    divine communion

— Catherine LaCugna