



February 5, 2020

WAYS OF KNOWING GOD

When I pray with a group of people, especially if the group includes multiple religious traditions, I often address my prayer to “God who is known to us according to our ways of knowing you.”

To recognize that there are different ways of knowing God does not mean that faith is uncertain or wishy-washy. It is just the opposite. Faith is strong when it makes room for the expansiveness of God.

Even within the Christian faith, God is known differently. Our scriptures provide a multitude of images for one God, who is variously described as the one who stretches the heavens, the “still small voice,” “our rock and our redeemer,” the good shepherd, and the “one in whom we live and move and have our being.”

Rainer Maria Rilke describes our ways of knowing in his collection of prayerful poems, *Book of Hours*.

You are the deep innerness of all things,
the last word that can ever be spoken.
To each of us you reveal yourself differently:
To the ship as coastline, to the shore as ship.

- *Book of Hours* II, 22, translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy

Sometimes God is known to us in a form of power and strength. At other times, God may be known to us as a spiritual force of comfort, or as a fiery motivation for action.

What is your primary image of God?
Has it changed over time?
Is it time for you to know God in a different way?

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister