**Poetry used in DanaLee Simon’s Bible Study Sessions at Fall Theological Conference, 2018.**

*Let Your God Love You by Edwina Gately*

Be silent.  
Be still.  
Alone.  
Empty  
Before your God.  
Say nothing.  
Ask nothing.  
Be silent.  
Be still.  
Let your God look upon you.  
That is all.  
God knows.  
God understands.  
God loves you  
With an enormous love,  
And only wants  
To look upon you  
With that love.  
Quiet.  
Still.  
Be.

Let your God—  
Love you.

**Lost**

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you  
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,  
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,  
Must ask permission to know it and be known.  
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,  
I have made this place around you.  
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.  
No two trees are the same to Raven.  
No two branches are the same to Wren.  
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,  
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows  
Where you are. You must let it find you.

-- David Wagoner   
(1999)

**Generous Listening: A Poem by Marilyn Nelson**

A conversation can be a contest,  
or a game of catch with invisible balloons.  
They bounce between us, growing and shrinking,  
sometimes floating like cloud medicine balls,  
and sometimes bowling at us like round anvils.  
You toss a phrase and understanding blooms  
like an anemone of colored lights.  
My mind fireworks with unasked questions.  
Who is this miracle speaking to me?  
And who is this miracle listening?  
What amazingness are we creating?  
Out of gray matter a star spark of thought  
leaps between synapses into the air,  
and pours through gray matter, into my heart:  
how can I not listen generously?

**When I Am Among the Trees by Mary Oliver**

*When I am among the trees,   
especially the willows and the honey locust,  
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,  
they give off such hints of gladness.  
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.*

*I am so distant from the hope of myself,  
in which I have goodness, and discernment,  
and never hurry through the world  
 but walk slowly, and bow often.*

*Around me the trees stir in their leaves  
and call out, “Stay awhile.”  
The light flows from their branches.*

*And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,  
“and you too have come  
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled  
with light, and to shine.”*

**A Ute Prayer**

Earth teach me stillness  
as the grasses are stilled with light.  
Earth teach me suffering  
as old stones suffer with memory.  
Earth teach me humility  
as blossoms are humble with beginning.  
Earth teach me caring  
as the mother who secures her young.  
Earth teach me courage  
as the tree which stands all alone.  
Earth teach me limitation  
as the ant which crawls on the ground.  
Earth teach me freedom  
as the eagle which soars in the sky.  
Earth teach me resignation  
as the leaves which die in the fall.  
Earth teach me regeneration  
as the seed which rises in the spring.  
Earth teach me to forget myself  
as melted snow forgets its life.  
Earth teach me to remember kindness  
as dry fields weep with rain.