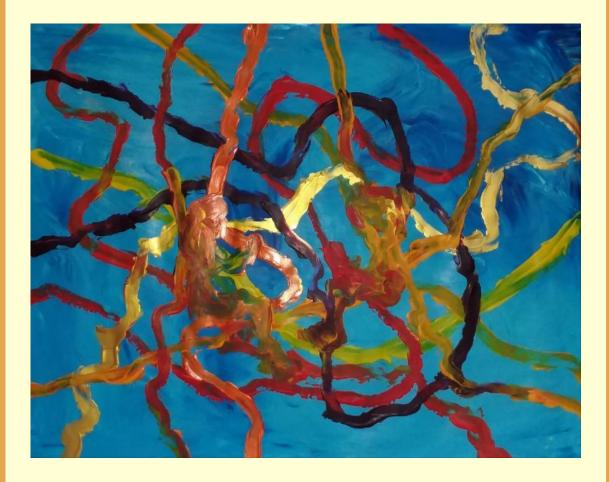


February, 2019

If when you are aware of God's presence, you were invited to choose a color that would symbolize that presence, what color would you choose? Recently I posed this question to some spiritual director friends about God's presence when they are companioning someone, and I engaged in the prayer myself. What came to me was streaming rainbows on a backdrop of blue.

I continued my prayer through painting and, as often is the case, I felt like the painting did not fully express the depth and beauty of my experience. On the other hand, again as often is the case when I pray through painting, something surprising appeared that I did not consciously plan. Sitting in the lap of the person I am companioning is a red bird that I had no idea I was painting; I could see it after I was finished. I like to think of that bird as the Holy Spirit snuggling up to the directee. I continued my prayer even further by giving voice to the poem that bubbled up.



Companions

If God's presence were a color, it would be rainbow streamings around and through us, no end nor beginning, vibrant and vibrating on a canvas of peace-filled blue. All is well here and the journey continues... into authenticity,

> into humility, into surrender, into beauty, into freedom, into more complete union with God.

May all of us have the companions we need to guide us on our journeys, may we in turn companion others and may we recognize God in the process. Finally, I invite you to share with me the color you would choose to symbolize your experience of God.

Peace and Blessings, Clarence

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Clarence Heller is a spiritual director, poet, and dreamer whose writing and paintings are inspired through prayerful reflection.

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