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A Tribute to the Rivers

**We call you ocean.**

**We call you sea, gulf, strait, bight**

**Bay, lagoon, river, falls, creek,**

**Stream, lake, pond, spring.**

**We call you rain.**

**We call you pool, puddle, snowflake,**

**Glacier, dew, mist, cove, channel, inlet,**

**Cascade, brook, tributary, bayou, tarn.**

**We call you Katrina, Tsunami, Rita, Flood.**

**You of many names, you of infinite beauty and grace**

**And you also of destruction and death.**

**We stand in reverence, in gratitude, looking out at you,**

**Holy water.**

**You have given us your body, your song, your love –**

**Help us.**

**Help us easily distracted, heartbreakingly self-centered,  
brilliant and beautiful big-brained creatures,**

**Us business-as-usual, new-on-the-planet, slow-moving,  
deep-loving creatures**

**Help us remember that this wondrously intelligent orb has  
generated living art beyond anything we will ever hope to approximate  
twenty four hours a day for six billion years**

**Help us remember that we can seize the power  
That we can raise our voices  
That we can flood the courtrooms, the schoolrooms, the boardrooms,  
the email, the voicemail, letters to the editor, the streets,  
the banks, the churches and the temples  
That we can rise up in power on behalf of all those who live  
in tree, cave, hive, village, river, ocean and suburb.  
That we can rise up on behalf of all we love and all that keeps us alive.  
We beseech you: visible and invisible,  
Wild and tame, past, present and future.**

**Have mercy on us human beings.**

**Help us give birth to the human race.**

**And now for a moment of stillness as we place a rose into the melody of the  
Milwaukee River, who waltzes before us on the dance floor of the autumn earth.**

**Thank you, holy river, for bringing us together as new community, as Friends of  
Yours, devoted to looking out at you, and looking out for you.  
With hearts spilling over with love for you, we say thank you.**

**Stand in silence for a few seconds and then close with Rilke from the Book of Hours**

**The hour is striking so close above me,  
so clear and so sharp,  
that all my senses ring with it.  
I feel it now: there's a power in me  
to grasp and give shape to my world.**

**I know that nothing has ever been real  
without my beholding it.  
All becoming has needed me.  
My looking ripens things  
and they come toward me, to meet and be met.**

**The words of this tribute were gathered from the following sources:**

**Claudia L'amoreaux; Libby Roderick; Rainer Maria Rilke and myself, Susan Winecki**

**I would like to leave you with this resource if you aren't already aware of it. Dr. Masaru Emoto in his books called, *The Hidden Message of Water* and his latest, *The Healing Power of Water* through myriad photographs of frozen water from sources around the world reveals that when water is exposed to loving and grateful words and thoughts it forms brilliant, complex and amazing beautiful crystals and when it is ignored or sent negative messages it forms incomplete, dull and contorted patterns. They are marvelous reads.**