



**Living in Relational Wholeness**

**Coalesce Podcast**

**Episode 005 – All This Goodness is Pure Gift**

**Note, terms, scripture, practice**



[Romans 1:20](#)

[Genesis 1:9-31](#)

[Genesis 1:3-8](#)

[Colossians 3:3](#)

“All things counter, original, spare, strange; / Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)” (Gerard Manley Hopkins, *Pied Beauty*).

[Romans 8:22](#)

[Genesis 1:3](#)

[John 14:12](#)

[Colossians 3:11](#)

[1 Corinthians 15:28](#)

[Romans 8:22](#)

*If it isn't moving toward unity, always at the price of some kind of suffering, it is not a higher level of consciousness.*

[John 1:1-5](#)

[John 1:9](#)

[John 1:10](#)

[John 1:14, 16](#)

[Colossians 2:9](#)

[Ephesians 3:19](#)

Babylonian *Enuma Elish*

[Genesis 1:26](#)

*perichoresis* (divine dance)

[Genesis 1:10-31](#)

### **Practice: A Psalm of Praise**

Thomas Merton (1915-1968) was born 105 years ago (Jan 31); he was a man who almost single-handedly brought contemplative spirituality back to Western Christianity's awareness. He was a minister, poet, and activist, and he was deeply ecumenical. Merton wrote extensively about contemplation, and his own prayer practice "centered entirely on attention to the presence of God and to His will and His love ... a kind of praise rising up of out of the center of Nothing and Silence" (*The Hidden Ground of Love*, pp. 63-64). Here is one of his exuberant, joyous psalms:

Today, Father, this blue sky lauds you.  
The delicate green and orange flowers of the tulip poplar tree praise you.  
The distant blue hills praise you,  
together with the sweet-smelling air that is full of brilliant light.  
The bickering flycatchers praise you  
with the lowing cattle and the quails that whistle over there.

I too, Father, praise you, with all these my brothers,  
and they give voice to my own heart and to my own silence.  
We are all one silence, and a diversity of voices.  
You have made us together,  
you have made us one and many,  
you have placed me here in the midst  
as witness, as awareness, and as joy.

Here I am.  
In me the world is present,  
and you are present.  
I am a link in the chain of light and of presence.  
You have made me a kind of center,  
but a center that is nowhere.  
And yet also I am "here."

—Thomas Merton, *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*, pp. 131-132

Spend some time witnessing the wonder of creation and write, draw, dance, or sing your own psalm of gratitude.