19th June 2025

Word

"Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed,
as words within the Word."

Marty Haugen, *Let us build a house*

When I was a parish minister, I ran one of our annual "exploration classes" for people who were interested in learning more about their Christian faith. As part of our learning together, we each shared an image of what God meant to us, in an honest, non-judgemental and inclusive way. The variety, depth, meaning and insight of the folk in that group was quite remarkable. Here, in living reality, was Marty Haugen's idea of "words within the Word". And I learned a great deal from that sharing process.

Continuing the thought process from last weekend's Trinity Sunday, of how God is revealed to us in different ways, I offer the hymn below. I've set it to John Wainwright's 18th century melody, *Yorkshire* (also known as *Stockport*), familiar to us from the Christmas hymn, *Christians, awake, salute the happy morn.* Also suitable is *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius.

You speak in words, so that my ears might hear
your Word of life, in language sure and clear.
You speak in signs, so that my eyes might see
your Word of life in beauty given to me.
You speak in thoughts, so that my heart might feel
your Word of life, your presence ever real.

You speak in stillness, blessing me once more,
your Word of life poured out from heaven's store.
You speak in sounds, in music for my soul,
your Word of life, to heal and make me whole.
You speak in silence, brushing noise away,
your Word of life, enough for each new day.

You speak in ways I may not realise,
your Word of life that takes me by surprise.
You speak to me no matter what I do –
your Word of life, your truth forever new.
You speak to me … so help me comprehend
your Word of Life, your Glory without end.

A prayer for today

Speak your Word, Lord; show your Way, Lord; and help me to listen and know. Amen

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