

MORNING BY MORNING

I confess that I am not a morning person. In fact, I had a housemate during my time in Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) who once told a group of people that for the first few months we lived in the BVS house he thought I was, in so many words, an unfriendly person. His initial analysis of me was based on the fact that I would never respond to his cheerful morning greetings each day. My routine was to quietly prepare a lunch and eat my breakfast in silence at the kitchen table. Seemingly unaware of my distaste for mornings, he anticipated and expected as cheerful of a response to his morning greetings as he had given.

Months into our time living in the same house, he began to recognize that as each day would progress I would become a more enlivened, friendly person. He eventually concluded that it wasn't because I was unfriendly or didn't like him that I didn't respond to his cheerful morning greetings; it was merely because I am not a morning person. He continued, each morning, to smile and greet me without expectation of a response.

Hearing this story of my housemate's perspective of our morning encounters stirred a newness of listening and seeing and knowing within me. I became more aware and attentive to the ways in which each of us was bringing our whole selves into the practice of being in relationship as housemates.

Morning by morning, moment by moment, may we all be awakened to listening, to seeing, and to knowing God's movement in teaching us, preparing us, and helping us along our journeys.

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Text for Today

Isaiah 50:4-9a (4), NRSV

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. **Morning by morning** he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.