

## Prayer (1)

David Hodges

Outside the day-to-day,  
the hectic, empty race;  
leaving behind  
the weight of the past,  
the future for a while on hold;  
out of time, the mood  
of the moment left behind.

The self now inside out,  
absent to self  
but present to the One;  
bared and open to the light,  
to healing and forgiveness.  
Now on the path  
to living in the One.

**David Hodges** is a monk at the Cistercian Abbey on Caldey Island, off the south coast of Wales. Before entering the Abbey, he practised as a solicitor in Basingstoke, Hampshire, having read Law and Economics at Cambridge University. His poetry has been widely published. He has published seven collections of his poetry which may be obtained from the abbey. Details: [www.caldey-island.co.uk](http://www.caldey-island.co.uk)

## Prayer (2)

David Hodges

Let my prayer be bold  
for my heart is cold.  
To God I pray  
to be more aware  
of his tender care;  
that he will this day  
light up that spark  
within my narrow heart,  
create the space  
for him to come.  
I seek his face,  
to see the glory of the One,  
that seeing whom I love  
and loving whom I see,  
I may die to self  
to live in Love Himself.

Under a leafy oak  
turning pages, taking in  
the words that Jesus spoke.

The sacred Word like  
fields of ripened wheat,  
inviting me to taste and eat.

I murmur sweet and healing  
honeyed words of life,  
as bees are buzzing from a hive.

Repeating and repeating as I read,  
while cows are chewing cud  
watching me and waiting as they feed.

My heart is full and overflowing  
as I look up and watch  
a skylark rise, begin to sing.