DIAKONIA Prayer Letter May 2018

The following verses are from a poem by the American John Greenleaf Whittier. They are recognizable because they were adapted into a hymn.

John Greenleaf Whittier was a 19th century American writer. He practiced the Quaker religion who supported the abolition of slavery. The verses cited below are from a longer poem titled The Brewing of Soma

A Prayer for Peace and Calm

Dear Lord and Father of humankind,
Forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives Thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and Thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

- John Greenleaf Whittier

Deaconess Laura K. Lazar, USA