

## Cloud And Fire

*Another prayer written for our series on the Exodus story and exploring the theme of God's presence in our wanderings giving us reassurance to sustain us on our journey of faith.*

God of our journeys  
moving, by day, in a pillar of cloud before us  
as we stumble, clueless into the wilderness before us,  
you challenge and guide us.

God of our resting  
dancing by night in the fearful beauty of a pillar of flame  
when we are tired of our wanderings,  
you comfort and inspire us.

In the rain-bearing cloud in the desert,  
you bring us life.

In the warming fire at night,  
you inspire joy.

Forgive us  
when we see only the swirling mists of confusion  
and cannot sense your presence.

*[Silence]*

Forgive us  
when we proudly believe we can control the flame  
and abuse your power.

*[Silence]*

Down the years, you have been with those who worship  
in this place  
wherever two or three are gathered.  
Your presence assures us of your forgiveness  
and the healing of your shalom.

Be with us today  
As you were with us yesterday  
Go with us tomorrow  
and lead us towards the promised land of healing and wholeness,  
glimpsed in the distance  
of the life of your son.

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