

**2003-10-26**  
**On Adoption**  
**Mark Belletini**

**Opening Words**

laughter, all prompt a million, million  
voices to cry out with rare radiance, "I am."

*Mark:*    **Hagios ischyros, Hagios athanatos  
          eleison imas.**

*Wendy:*  No one on this small stone going around a  
star knows what is to come, and all remember the past  
differently. Blame and war, self-righteousness and  
arrogance, entitlement and estrangement, tenement  
and gutter distort the world, and still  
voices cry out with amazement, "I am."

*Mark:*    **Namo 'valo kiteshvaraya**

*Wendy:*    And because of the sorrows and terror,  
Wendy:Wendy:

to cry, "I am."

*Mark:*       **Amen.**

*Wendy:*       And so hope remains beautiful, like  
sun on the water, like a dove in the  
air, like mind opening and opening  
again, and saying with thanksgiving,  
"I am."

*Mark:*       **Alleluia**

*Wendy:*       Hope is another way of saying, "I am."

*Mark:*       **Amen.**

*Wendy*       And hope, in the end, is a form of love.

*Mark/Wendy* **Amen**

*silence*

Knowing that each of us who says, "I am" is part of a great circle of humanity, which says *We are*, we claim our freedom here to call to mind now those to whom we are bound by faith, or by love, or by forgiveness. We thus bring them into our common worship by seeing them in our inner eye, or by whispering their name aloud into the safety of this, our common house.

*Naming*

Blest is the music which, on this tiny planet,  
rolling around an unimportant star, nonetheless  
teaches us the divinity of beauty, harmony,  
cooperation, and practice. Blest is this gift of gifts.





There was a man in my former congregation named Art who was









whole-heartedly, yet provisionally, which is very difficult. And

mortal son of a mortal human being, his mother Maria. The single parent God, however, at the moment of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, *adopted*

woman, she asks: Will he stop asking some day “Why don’t we look like a ‘normal’ family?” Mom does not know the answers to his questions. But she does know that she loves him. And she chooses

And since blood is not thicker than water, we are sisters and brothers to each other forever and ever. amen.

