

## Apophatic Prayer 3

By **Karl Plank**

You whom I love as absence,  
let us meet in silence.

When a bell has rung,  
what do we hear? At the Abbey  
I stood among stones and listened  
to vibrations from the tower

become thin and then less  
become the sound of my own breath  
and no bell at all – its vanishing  
the air within me.

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**Karl Plank** is the author of the recent poetry collection, *A Field, Part Arable* (Lithic Press, 2017) and his poetry has appeared in publications such as *Notre Dame Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Spiritus* and *Zone 3*. His writings on Merton, contemplation and Judaism have been published in *Anglican Theological Review*, *Cistercian Studies* and *The Merton Annual*. Since 1982 he has taught at Davidson College in North Carolina, where he is the J. W. Cannon Professor of Religion.



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