

## Two Poems

By **David Hodges, OCSO**

### Fire Prayer

Frost fire glare,  
wisp of red mist,  
ice on the margins of the lakes,  
the morning crisp and clear  
with the purity of a child.

Red sunlight  
floods the morning sky,  
the ice-cold water bright,  
twin lakes shining  
like the eyes of a prophet.

Are you ready yet to burn,  
become all flame,  
your heart afire,  
filled with love's desire  
at the morning prayer?



**David Hodges**

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**David Hodges, OCSO** is a monk at the Cistercian Abbey on Caldey Island, off the south coast of Wales. Before entering the abbey, he practiced law as a solicitor in Basingstoke, Hampshire, having read law and economics at Trinity College, Cambridge. He is the author of seven poetry collections and has had poetry published in *The Month*, *Spirituality*, *The Furrow*, *Hallel*, *Mount Carmel*, *The Merton Journal*, *The Merton Seasonal*, *The Tablet*, *Cistercian Studies Quarterly*, *Studies*, *Religious Life Review* and *Cambria*, as well as in anthologies.

## In Church

All around,  
the sound of the sea  
and wind through trees.  
In here, stone and air  
hold my prayer,  
protected by the shadows.  
The Holy Spirit is the source,  
directs the course;  
the meaning held in silence,  
attentive to a subtle music  
that resonates within.