

Musings in the Flower Bed

We have been blessed with such a warm and sunny April after a bleak winter of coronavirus-isolation. The extra warm temperatures and brilliant sunshine have been calling us to the out-of-doors, without the boots, mitts, toques, and worrisome ice that plagued us this winter! What a joy!

I have experienced *many* Springs in my lifetime, but this one seemed extra special. The warm weather definitely arrived earlier than usual, and I can almost see the Spring plants growing before my eyes. In fact, I think my eyes opened a bit wider this year...and my heart was lifted a bit higher this year. I give thanks to our loving Creator for this miracle...this gift...of Spring.

Nature's Spring beauty is on full display here on the Bruce, reminding me of the joyous hymn, *For the Beauty of the Earth*. (lyrics by Folliot Pierpoint)

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| 1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies. | 4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, |
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Refrain: Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this, our hymn of grateful praise.

Amidst the weeding and the mulching, I was inspired by the signs of new life, by plants seemingly dead but being resurrected by the right amount of warmth and moisture. I felt renewed myself by the loveliness of God's creative powers.

I remembered my "friends on earth, and friends above." So many of my plants have been given to me, with love, from wonderful friends, my very own cloud of witnesses. Garry's violets; Sheila's rhubarb and lavender; Marion's primroses; Susan's and Karin's irises; Evelyn's grape hyacinths; Sally's cowslips.

I, too, have been renewed over the years with new spiritual growth because of the many special individuals who have provided the right amount of warmth, together with the light of Christ that shone through them.

I felt at peace and praised God for all the people who have come into my life, those who have loved, supported, and uplifted me through all my ups and downs, my successes and failures, and for those who continue to journey with me. I prayed that our bond, our sense of community, would be strengthened despite the social restrictions that we are all experiencing. I thanked God for the technology we possess to reach out over vast distances to stay connected. I asked God for continued patience to handle the frustrations that often accompany the use of this technology.

And lastly, I prayed that my new-found aches and pains from all my bending and squatting would disappear in a day or two!

Forever hopeful, Bernadette