



"I gave a 100 Valentines💕

100 did I say?

I gave a 1000 Valentines one cold and wintry day,

I didn't put my name on them or any other words

For my Valentines were seeds for the February birds "

While I was teaching Kindergarten, my students shared my enjoyment of feeding birds, and that little poem was one of our favourites.

I shared photos and audio tapes of birds coming to my bird feeder, especially in stormy weather, with the children, and read stories to them about birds. They enjoyed making picture stories about their experiences watching birds, around their homes.

They were fascinated with the story of Carmen Elizabeth Clarke, a nurse in the Hospital for Sick and Crippled Children in Vancouver who wrote the song "There's a Bluebird on Your windowsill" for one of her young patients, in 1947. (This song was the first one written by a Canadian, to sell a million copies, and she donated the royalties to children hospitals across Canada.)

Chorus "There's a bluebird on your windowsill

There's a rainbow in your sky🌈

There are happy thoughts your heart to fill

Near enough to make you cry"

*(see google or safari for all the lyrics and more information about this song)*

We had fun changing the words of the chorus to the names of the birds that we were seeing:

There's a Blue Jay on my windowsill

There's a chickadee in our tree

And here come cardinal and a nuthatch too

Looking for our bird feeder.

When I recall our efforts to attract birds to come to our feeders and spend time with us, it reminds me of how much our Lord, the King of Love, longs to have a personal relationship with us.

He invites everyone to His feast, but so often, we get so caught up in the busyness, and trials and tribulations of life that we don't even stop to think about Him or just hastily say our prayers. Often it is only when we are going through a crisis that we cry out to Him. I remember my mother saying that during the war, people flocked to church. Now during this pandemic, we have more opportunities to spend time focusing on our relationship with our Lord.

I need to slow down, and take more time to pray, read my Bible, and praise Him. Everyday we are hearing of the creative ways that churches are finding to spread God's love and reach out to help the needy, and folks who don't usually attend church are listening to livestreaming services.

For me, the words of hymns help me to take time to really focus on spending time with our Lord, and see how He is working in our lives.

God loves the whole world 🌍 and all that's in it.

He loves each flower, 🌸 He loves each tree 🌲

He loves the forests, 🌲 🌲 🌲 He loves the rivers,

And I know He loves you and me 🧑 🧑

God's love is shining in every sunbeam,

Shines at night in moon 🌙 and stars 🌟 🌟 🌟

Shines through the darkness of every storm cloud ☁️

And I know He shines in you and me 🧑 🧑

God's love is singing 🎵 in every songbird bird 🐦

His voice is calling in the wind 🌀

God sings His love song 🎵 in many voices

And I know He sings in you and me 🧑 🧑

*(sing to the chorus of You Are My Sunshine)*

Doreen White