

Meditation on Nature-July 21, 2021

I rejoice.

For You have made me glad.

The magnificence of Nature is very deep.

*and the beauty of your creation fills my heart. (Psalm 92 adaptation)**

*The being and beauty of the universe
declares the Glory of God.*

No words are necessary.

*Contemplation of nature revives my soul. (Psalm 19 adaptation)**

Fills my heart...revives my soul... Yes, I must admit that during the past 16 months of Covid-19 restrictions and isolation, I have felt very connected to God, Creator of all, because of my interactions with nature. God is everywhere.

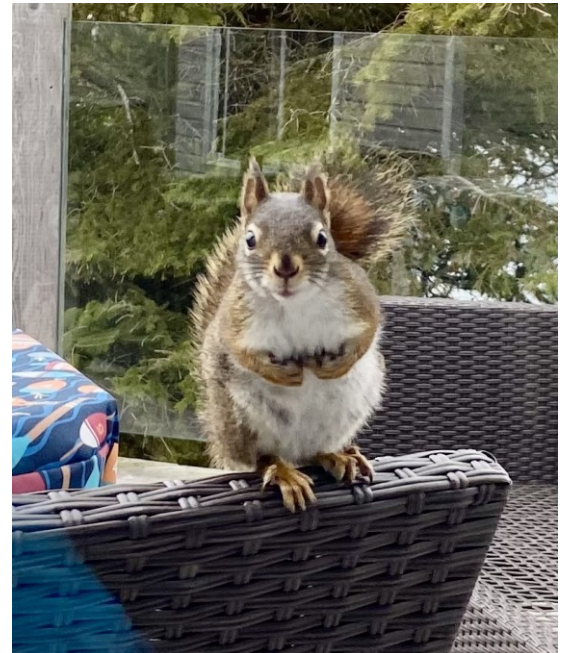
I have felt God's love for all creation and marveled at its amazing variety. Each bird comes with its own colours, shape and sound. Each tree has its own bark and leaf. Each flower has its own petals and seeds. Each human...each animal...each microorganism...are all unique.

Over the last year I developed a special relationship with a red squirrel. He'd often come when I called and happily take his daily ration of 3 peanuts from me, before scampering off to his secret hiding place. Sometimes he would look at me through our sliding doors and remind me that it was feeding time!

Our friendship not only filled my heart with joy, and helped me spiritually to appreciate God's role in creation, but it also helped me physically. I faithfully shoveled a path in the snow over our septic bed to the mossy rock at the edge of the woods that was our meeting/feeding place.

Then one day I thought...God is calling each one of us by name, offering us nourishment for our souls and psyche, using others to remind us to remain faithful. How pleased our Creator must feel when we respond and continue our loving relationship!

Last summer, and now again, I have had time to help the monarch butterflies. Through Anne James' encouragement, my husband built a house to protect the monarch through all its stages of development. How amazing it is to watch tiny eggs hatch, grow into chubby caterpillars, and then totally morph into a new type of being.



Something special happened a few days ago...I looked in the cage and saw a heart chewed into the leaf. How fortunate I was to look at that precise moment, because one minute later the top of the heart was gone! I had never witnessed this before. Yes, God's amazing creatures do fill my heart with love and praise.

What you can't see are the 6-chrysalis hanging from the top of the box. However, if you enlarge the picture, you will see a chrysalis hanging from a leaf in the bottom right corner.

Henri Nouwen's teachings also remind us that God is the Father of all living things, and we are all siblings.



"...we are indeed brothers and sisters not only of all other men and women in the world but also of all that surrounds us. Yes, we have to love the fields full of wheat, the snowcapped mountains, the roaring seas, the wild and tame animals, the huge redwoods, and the little daisies. Everything in creation belongs, with us, to the large family of God."

(Henri Nouwen Society Daily Meditation from *Bread for the Journey* by Henri Nouwen © 1997)

I am looking forward to the day when we can all raise our voices together to praise and worship God for the many blessings of creation that we have. Until then, let us each sing as a choir of one or sing quietly in our hearts...

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee; How great Thou art!
How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee;
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*
From *Common Praise*, 1998, "How Great Thou Art", verse 2, p. 423.

*Written by Christine Robinson. Perry introduced us to Christine during a recent devotion at PPC. Through the magic of Google, I found a wonderful blog she has written. [Psalms for a New World at doubterpsalms.blogspot.com](http://doubterpsalms.blogspot.com) She explains why she has adapted the language of the psalms to meet our modern world. Her words are truly inspiring. Thank you, Perry!

I also apologize to Christine for not heeding her advice in Psalm 19 that I shared at the beginning...*No words are necessary!*

Bernadette