

WONDER

"Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare."

Psalm 40:5

***"Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."***

Psalm 51:10-12

***"but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint."***

Isaiah 40:31

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

1 Corinthians 13:11

Throughout this pandemic as I have been sharing devotions with you, I too have been reading my own healthy share of things written. Today I would like to share with you one such piece that I have had in my possession for several years. It's something I have gone back to when I seem to find myself lost in the noise of the world. It came to me by way of a friend and to be honest I have absolutely no idea who authored it or its original source, but nonetheless it sits in my archived collection among the ones that have caused me to simply stop and think. May it do the same for you.

"All day long, children wonder . . . at least if they are healthy and fed and have room to explore. Where does the sun go at night? Can people live on clouds? Is God a man or a woman? What would happen if we shared our home with a refugee family? Where do the hummingbirds go in winter?"

As adults, our sense of wonder is too often crowded out by worry. We want to provide food, clothing, shelter and answers to those young questioners. We have work and bills and deadlines. It's hard to stop and wonder when there's so much to do. Besides, wondering about what we can't control makes us feel vulnerable.

And then the unthinkable happens. A teenaged girl is killed in a freak accident. An otherwise healthy man comes down with cancer and is gone within a year. The job we thought would see us through retirement evaporates. Our candidate doesn't win. Our neighbors are deported. Or we suddenly receive unexpected, good news. Something we thought wasn't possible for us suddenly opens up. We wonder.

God is constantly with us, inviting us to wonder. We cannot control many of the things that happen around us, but we can take charge of our own time and thoughts. We can make space for wonder in our lives. We can wonder how to express God's love in each of these situations.

I claim many practices that invite wonder into my life — meditation, prayer, yoga, painting, and walking — but when I get rushed and worried, I tend to avoid them. It's tempting to tap the worry beads on my I-phone (icons or keyboard) instead of sitting with my discomfort and fears in a silent meditation, even though it takes less time. Yet if I do take ten minutes to sit in the quiet, it is not long before the warmth of divine love surrounds and sustains me. A commitment to a Lenten practice of quiet time can remind us that God's wonder is always present.

In *Wonderstruck*, inspirational writer Margaret Feinberg says that her whole relationship with God changed when she began to pray for wonder instead of for answers. This year during Lent, I invite you to pause every day for a short time to reconnect with wonder."

Prayer:

Gracious God,

Grant us wings to soar. Set us upon high places and show us the wonders of Your love. Open our heart to new things that we might continue to grow in your love and grace. Amen.