

Devotion Fifth Week of Easter, 2021

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

As I set here and write this, it is pouring rain. I am so thankful for that gift. Everything in our yard has been dry, and we were talking about having to drag the sprinkler around to water some new plantings. But God took care of it. Our cars will lose their yellow tint again, hopefully this time for good this season.

As several of us cleaned up the Memory Garden this past Saturday (thanks Fred, Jim and Nancy, Philippe, Connie, and my Jim), I at first was sad that all the azaleas had finished blooming. But then I spotted a beautiful pink rhododendron in full bloom. And the old-fashioned pink roses by the front steps are in full bloom as well. It looks like we'll be blessed with blooming things for a while this summer. And summer is coming, if you haven't noticed!

We will have some refreshments after church on Pentecost Sunday and take a look at the Memory Garden. If you want to stroll through the cemetery, Fred and Jenn just mowed and cleaned it up as well. And beginning May 30, we'll have refreshments out front under the trees in the garden to the left of the Sanctuary doors, so that you can greet each other and catch up on news in some shade with some lemonade and cookies. So join us in church and afterwards for fellowship outside.

We sang a song together this past Sunday – "This Little Light of Mine." And if you listened to Jim's introduction of the second reading, you know why. We will slowly return to some congregational singing – with one verse of a hymn at the end of the service. But stay tuned – in the coming months we'll expand that, as everyone is vaccinated.

Psalms 96 reminds me why we love to sing:

*O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

May you have a joyous week listening to rain and bird song, and may you sing some of your oldie goldie favorite hymns in honor of Jesus, who died and rose for us so that we can sing his praises.

Jeanne