

## Devotion, Holy Week, 2023

### Rev. Jeanne Simpson

As we progress from Palm Sunday to Good Friday and the agonizing death of our Savior, I am reminded that we are still in spring, we are still in the midst of the miracle of the original Exodus Passover that let the Israelites escape Egypt, and we are still waiting on Easter Sunday. We know the end of the story, and that gives us hope during this week of waiting.

Rev. Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, a pastor in Wilmette, Illinois, wrote this wonderful poem about spring, that to me incorporates both the beauty of this season and the hope of the resurrection. We wait in the winter for a sign of newness, just like we wait in Holy Week for that glorious celebration on Easter morning.

Loving, Creator God,  
Spring reminds me it's  
never too late to start over.  
That there's been quiet growth  
over these long months  
of winter when I saw nothing.  
When I was called to believe  
there was growth happening  
beneath hard, cold soil.

And now? Glory!  
I celebrate the loveliness  
of all you've made.  
The newness, Lord,  
the freshness—  
it inspires my soul!

Tulips in the front yard,  
buds on the trees,  
the voices of birds,  
the cleansing of rain,  
the comfort of sunshine...  
Each gift renews me,  
speaking of the promise within  
all those months of dormancy  
and preparation.

**May you wait in hope.**

*Jeanne*

As spring awakens my physical senses,  
I ask, God, for you to awaken my inner senses.

May my mind open and blossom  
to the longings you've placed within me...  
to the steps and path that will  
satisfy the desires of my heart...  
to the hopes and passions  
you've planted in every  
one of your children...

May I seek what will truly fulfill them.  
May I journey toward their Source.  
May I be guided by your gentle and wise Spirit.

It is never too late to be  
what you call me to be.  
Even as it takes greatest courage  
and deepest humility.

With your help, I will open myself to  
what I never expected before,  
never experienced before,  
and never thought possible.

Amen.