

Devotion, Fourth Week of Eastertide, 2024
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

As we progress through Eastertide, marveling at the beautiful flowers at church (including new ones planted by the Property Committee last week out front), I am reminded of Jesus' saying in Luke 12: about the lilies:

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”

I worry anyway and tend not to trust that God knows what is best for me. But in these weeks of spring, I try to look at those blooming flowers and remember that I did nothing to make them beautiful – they are truly unmerited gifts from our Creator. And I also am a gift from God, who loves me, in spite of my worry and lack of trust. And that is indeed good news.

Jeanne