

Devotion, Week of May 25, 2025—Sixth Week of Eastertide

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

It's been a hard week. I never thought I would be taking my husband to a care facility and having to face the fact that he is never coming home. I wander through the house, looking at his things and mourn the loss of his presence here. My brother called me and I cried a while and then we talked about Jim's needs and why I couldn't take care of him anymore. He reminded me that I have placed him in an incredible place that is going to provide excellent care for him. That made me feel better. As I sat down to write this devotion, I remembered Jim's grandmother's favorite hymn – "Count Your Blessings." She always did that – every day – no matter how tough things got. She lost a three year old child, lived through the depression, and lost her husband when she was in her early sixties. And yet, she had this positive outlook on life and just kept enjoying the things around her that were so simple – like her flowers and peaches. So I've been reciting the words to that hymn this week, when I feel weepy or sad. I hope they are an inspiration to you.

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings – name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings; every doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.

When I got home from the care facility the day Jim moved in, my easter lilies were blooming. The next day one of the gardenias began to open. And a cardinal couple have a nest with four eggs in one of my bushes. Each day, I pray for some little sign that God cares for me, and I never know what blessing I am going to find. I hope you are able to count many blessings this week.

Jeanne