

## Devotion, Week of April 19, 2026 – Third Week of Eastertide

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

For some reason I have been unusually sad and lonely the past two weeks. I'm missing Jim. My youngest daughter Catherine has been having the same emotions. Beverly Johnson told me when Jim died last October that my reactions would be like tsunamis – one minute, everything would be fine and the next, something would trigger a flood of emotions. I think I've been sad partly because suddenly all of the favorite flowers he planted are blooming. We used to spend the end of each work day "surveying." We'd go all over the front and back yard looking at what was coming up or blooming, and he'd often taken pictures of special flowers and print them for framing or inclusion in a book of photos he would give me. So I've been a little "tender" lately.

This past Sunday we sang O Love That Will Not Let Me Go, and it made me tearful. Here are the lyrics:

O love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follows all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me thru' pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow thru' the rain  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

I hope these words remind you of Christ's sacrifice for you and the love that He gave us to share with others.

*Jeanne*