

Devotion, Week of July 5, 2026

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

I love fireworks. And probably most people do too. Although I'm scared of them – I used to hold my breath when Jim and Catherine would run back and forth lighting them, and then dealing with ones that didn't go off. But once they went up in the air and exploded, I was ecstatic. Jim used to get the kind that sound like a bomb and go way up before exploding. He could easily spend \$500 at the fireworks store in S.C. He and my neighbor set them off in our cul de sac, or sometimes at the beach.

It's not the sound that excites me – it's the visual explosion of light. I think of the creation of the universe with its big bang, when God said "Let there be light." I don't think God brought the world into being with a slow dawning of vague light. I think it was just like a bunch of fireworks! Because after all, God's creation is beyond miraculous – it's pure wonderment. Oceans and stars and planets and the sun and the moon and all the plants and trees and all the animals. Then, incredibly, us earthlings that he created in his own image. He gave us brains to examine the world around us; imaginations so we could sing and dance and recite poetry; senses so we could see and feel and taste and hear; and a soul, to recognize this omniscient presence as a creator and lover of his earthlings.

I am so often struck dumb by the sudden appearance of a flower in my garden, or a fawn sniffing around the blueberry bushes early in the morning. All of those gifts from a creator who loves us. I'm glad he let someone invent fireworks. I bet God enjoys them too!

Jeanne