

February

T.S. Eliot said that April is the cruelest month, but my vote goes to February. The weather is cold and miserable, and our weather forecasts are not always accurate, so we have surprises. We once had 12 inches of predicted partly cloudy in our driveway. That was a surprise. The only February I enjoyed was the year we went on a cruise and had 14 days of sunshine and blue waters. That was a good February. My Mother was born in February 111 years ago this month, she also died in February 1978, 10 days before her 68th birthday. February always seems like a long month although it is the shortest month. Our hearts and minds have been on Texas this week as they have suffered through the Winter weather with power outages and the loss of even water. We once had a well for water and when we lost power, we lost water. We could manage the cold with the fireplace and a space heater in the Family room, but the loss of water was difficult. We also had an electric stove and so could not cook but managed to obtain food and to refrigerate by utilizing the garage for storage. When we had an ice storm hit we rented a hotel room for showers, we had two teenagers who could not wash their hair for a week, and the drama had reached epic proportions.

This is the last week of February and we have had Ash Wednesday and now we begin to prepare ourselves for Easter. I am looking forward with a hopeful heart to being back in the Sanctuary for Easter. This has been a long spell but Spring and hope and the risen Christ are coming. We will soon be able to gather for worship and what a blessing that will be to see the familiar faces, to sing the familiar hymns, to hear the sermon in person, to once again be in community. Thanks be to God.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12 (KJV) For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

We thank you Lord for this Winter because we know it brings the promise of Spring. Be with us in these dark and harsh times, give us your hope and peace. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Be with our brothers and sisters in Texas as they go through this difficult time. Be with those who are homeless and those who are hungry and those suffering financial loss due to this pandemic. Be with our Pastor, bless his Ministry and be with his family. Be with our leaders, give them your patience and give them wisdom. May we go through this difficult and lengthy time resting on your assurance that you are with us and that you do not leave us alone. In Jesus name, Amen.

Grace Epperson