

God's Wonders

I receive a Newspaper that covers Washington Twp., Romeo, Bruce Twp., and Armada. It has the obituaries for who has passed away in the area and how many times the Romeo Police answered calls, The Sheriff's report, old pictures of "remember when" and most of them are so old I don't even remember except for a couple weeks ago when they had a picture of the "Urban" Street Car and I realized this was what my Dad referred to when he talked about taking the Inter Urban from Royal Oak to Romeo to deliver newspapers. It is an interesting paper, small in pages but interesting in content. They cover the council meetings, and a resident can read about what is happening. Right now, there is a lot of discussion about the property that the former Romeo Middle School sat on as developers want to put in condominiums and people are protesting and wanting to maintain the older look of stately old homes in the village. There is a column that I really enjoy by Garrison Keillor, who some of us will remember from Prairie Home Companion. This week his column was about his trip to the Grand Canyon. He rose early at 5 a.m. and hiked to the rim and watched the sunrise. Now I have seen the Grand Canyon a few times but never at sunrise. He talked about how the sight made him feel like he was looking at one of God's miracles. I remember feeling the same way (but not at sunrise). It is a beautiful sight and humbles one as they look at the miracle of it. He said it was like being in church. When we went to Israel and were traveling from Austria to Germany the tour bus stopped, and we all got off the bus and we were at the most beautiful spot. It was a valley with mountains in the background and in the middle was a small white church. All I could think of at that beautiful sight was "God you made the world so beautiful." Sometimes the sight of the natural wonders of this world makes us grateful that we are here in this place God provided for us. When we were in Bar Harbor, Maine I rose early and sat on a bench near the Atlantic Ocean and watched the sunrise. There was nothing between me and that beautiful body of water but green grass, rocks, and sand. I remember praying in that setting and thanking God for the beauty of the day. It was so peaceful and beautiful. We can pray anywhere but to pray in the peaceful quiet of a beautiful place seems to fill one with gratitude for a giving God. Add to it the songs of the birds greeting the morning and it is like a slice of heaven here on earth. Do you have that beautiful quiet place in your memories? A place where God was near, and you were peaceful? I hope you do and that you hold it in your heart and remember. I hope you have a place like that now. Perhaps a meditation garden or just a peaceful spot. When I walked five days a week I would go to the playground and sit on the bench by the basketball hoop. It was always so early that children weren't out playing. It was quiet and surrounded by trees and the yellow chickadees and robins would be flying around and you could hear birds greeting the morning with their songs. I loved that spot, and the quiet beauty of the day would lead me to prayer.

For the Beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies, For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and minds delight. For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight.

For the Beauty of the Earth by Folliot S. Pierpoint

Lord, hear our prayer. We thank you for the day given us, may we treasure it like the gift it is and use it in your service. We thank you for the beauty of this earth you have given us, may we never forget it is a gift to be treasured. Be with our families and our church, grant each your loving care. Be with our Pastor as he leads us closer to you. Bless him and be with his family. He is a gift. Be with our staff and leaders, give them guidance and your holy spirit as they seek to do your will. Be with those who mourn the loss of loved ones and those who are ill. Ease their pain. Be with those around the world who are facing loss from fires in Hawaii, those in Albania embroiled in war and invasion and, those in Haiti who are facing lawlessness and danger and be with those who are trying to survive and those in Florida recovering from storms. We thank you Lord that we have food and shelter and are safe. Be with our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren as they begin their school year. Keep them safe and from harm, grant them your tender care. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Grace Epperson