

**CELEBRATE THE TEMPORARY
CELEBRATE SUMMER**



**LET US COUNT OUR BLESSINGS
AND
GAZE WITH GRATITUDE
UPON GOD'S GIFTS**

CELEBRATE GOD ALIVE IN OUR MIDST
God looked at everything He had made,
and He found it very good.
Genesis 1: 31

PRESENCE of GOD

We rejoice and are glad, O God, because of Your great love for us, the beauty You see fit to bestow upon us and for our ability to see You, Lord, in all of creation. You have pitched Your tent among us. You are our God and we are Your holy people.

Glory to You, Source of All Being,
Glory to You, Eternal Word, our Redeemer,
Glory to You O Spirit most holy Who calls us to life, to holiness, to love and to creativity.

PSALM 19: 2-11

Refrain:

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the sky proclaims its Builder's craft.

1. The heavens declare the glory of God;
the sky proclaims its Builder's craft.
One day to the next conveys that message;
one night to the next imparts that knowledge.
There is no word or sound; no voice is heard;
Yet their report goes forth through all the earth,
their message, to the ends of the world.

REFRAIN

2. God has pitched there a tent for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom from his chamber,
and like an athlete joyfully runs its course.
From one end of the heavens it comes forth;
its course runs through to the other; nothing escapes its heat.

REFRAIN

1. The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.

REFRAIN

2. The command of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eye.
The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.
The statutes of the LORD are true, all of them just;
More desirable than gold, than a hoard of purest gold,
Sweeter also than honey or drippings from the comb.

REFRAIN

PRAYER BEFORE HEARING HOLY SCRIPTURE

Open your ears O Christian people
Open your hearts and receive the Good News
Open your mouths and give praise!

1 COLOSSIANS 3: 12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. The Word of the Lord!

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

REFLECTION:

Summer's a great time to experience this world, and to look and listen for God in a special place far from the interference of civilization. A boat on the water is a wonderful place to appreciate the blessings of summer. But, for you, it might be a hike in the mountains or camping in a forest. Your favorite summer place might be a stretch of beach, a country road, a bike path, your backyard garden or a picnic blanket in a park.

There is a story about St. Francis, the great lover of God in all of creation. One day while at prayer he came upon a very old and knurled tree. He said to the tree: "Show me the beauty of God" and immediately the tree bloomed in full splendor.

God created summer and has filled the season with wonders to behold if only we take the time to look and listen. In this last full month of summer, let's all make time before the start of the busy back-to-school school season to experience God in the stillness and beauty of the world He created before we created so many of the distractions that can separate us from Him. You just might hear in a birdsong, smell in a flower, see in a sunset, taste in a fresh ear of sweet corn, feel in a summer breeze, or notice in a comment from a child a lesson from God that will refresh and sustain you when you return to your daily routine.

**Have you ever seen
anything
in your life
more wonderful
than the way the sun,
every evening,
relaxed and easy,
floats toward the horizon
and into the clouds or the hills,
or the rumpled sea,
and is gone—
and how it slides again
out of the blackness
every morning,**

on the other side of the world,
like a red flower
streaming upward on its heavenly oils,
say on a morning in early summer,
at its perfect imperial distance—
and have you ever felt for anything
such wild love—
do you think there is anywhere, in any language,
a word billowing enough
for the pleasure
that fills you,
as the sun reaches out,
as it warms you
as you stand there, empty-handed.

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That gives man both warmth and light:
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
Unfolds blessings on our way,
Praise Him, Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
Let them His glory also show:
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship him in humbleness,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One.
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

INTERCESSIONS

Response:

GOD OF WONDER, GOD OF BEAUTY, HEAR US!

1. That each of us will recognize and give thanks to You, O Holy Creator, for all the gifts of creation, we pray:
2. That we will remember that You, O God, have made us a little less than the angels. You have crowned us with glory, honor and intellect, for this we pray:
3. That as stewards of God's creation, we will respect and treasure all the gifts of Your beauty, O Sustainer of us all, we pray:
4. That all those who bring beauty into our lives: artists, musicians, actors, sculptors, poets, authors, chefs, bakers, and inventors be filled with creativity to enrich our world, we pray:
5. That during this time of summer may we be refreshed and renewed and sing of Your greatness, O God, we pray:
6. That we see the beauty of You, O God, in the faces of the youth as well as in the weathered faces of the elderly, we pray:
7. That we will be alive with the beauty of God and sing of Your glory, O Heavenly Creator, we pray:

Loving God, we are privileged with the gift of time, the days of the week, the months of the year along with the four seasons that parallel the life cycle.

You have blessed us with the ability to think and to learn, and to make choices. We are gifted with our five senses that drink in the wonders around us and the glories of summer.

We realize the fragility of our human condition and we readily accept one another as gift.

Bless all who bring beauty and joy into our lives through their creative talents.

We pray for all who assist us in leading happy and productive lives so that we are cognizant of Your love in creation all around us. We remember in prayer all the sick and dying, the lonely, the broken-hearted, the lost and most especially for all our families, relatives and friends. Bless us with a happy and serene spirit.

PRAYER : Let us pray:

God Most High, by Your Word You created a wondrous universe, and through Your Spirit You breathed into it the breath of life. Accept creation's hymn of praise from our lips, and let the praise that is sung in heaven resound in the heart of every creature on earth, to the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May the morning sun stir you from the bed
May the winds of March move you on the road
May the rains of April renew you strength
May the flowers of May captivate your sight
May summer heat inflame your zeal

May autumn color stimulate your dreams
May the silver moon make you wiser yet
May you never be with yourself content.
May God Almighty be always at your side
May He Who is our Creator always be our guide.

HYMN: JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening to their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise:
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine:
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the Joy Divine.

Mortals join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father-love is reigning o'er us,
Sister-love binds each to each.
Ever singing marching onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sunward In the triumph song of life.

Our prayer is finished.

Let us leave this holy place renewed in mind and refreshed in spirit.
Take some time this week to enjoy the warmth of the sun, the
chirping birds, the fragrance and beauty of the flowers and yes, even
the tiny ants that are so busy.

We are God's holy and special people.
We are enamored by creation around us.
We are people who gratefully speak of God's wonder and awe.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!

