

Thought For The Day

During the lockdown many of us are working in our gardens, tidying and planting.

I'm sure this work is also going on in church grounds throughout the land.

I hope we can all feel Gods presence in our lives at this difficult time of confinement during which many of us are experiencing hours of solitude.

Time alone when gardening, too.

It occurred to me whilst toiling in the garden, Jesus is a gardener, a gardener of our souls.

He plants the seed of our faith, waters and feeds us, nourishing us by his teachings.

He even prunes our souls if we go astray, then rejoices in watching us bloom into Christian people. Just like all flora, everyone of us is unique and special to him.

I hope this thought helps to make gardening less arduous for you, knowing that what you do for your garden, Jesus is doing for you

Scarlett Hemming May 22nd 2020



Coughton Court ... because we'd all like a garden like that!

In this time of instability and change I've found that reading Psalms is a way of uplifting and strengthening one's soul.

I feel if we can appreciate our beautiful Earth and all its gifts, given to us by our Father then the restrictions of the lockdown may not seem so harsh.

Psalm 104 is probably the most beautiful written "showcase" of this and I've written a short appendix of my observations :-

Psalm 104 - An Appendix

Sunshine all day long

The stars in the night sky glow

Heavens diurnal course visible through my bay window

Birdsong in the garden

The lawn an Eden green

Everywhere our Father s springtime pattern can be seen.

Dainty aubrietia follows daffodil trumpets with colourful roses soon to bloom

Winter is behind us now

At last we are through the gloom

Summers pinks and blues

Then Autumn's copper and gold to inspire and amaze us

But soon the winter light will be upon us

So what?

Our Fathers love will protect us.

We watch the rolling of Gods divine seasons

And know that we are part of his perfect plan

No need to reason.

Flesh and bone to foliage and flower

All alike, a show of Gods Heavenly Power.

I will sing of the Fathers love and glory as long as I live

Our beautiful and bountiful Earth

Praise the Lord O My Soul ... Scarlett Hemming May 24th 2020

If you have access to internet Wendy and Stephen Malkinson have recommended this lovely recording of Evensong ...

The Rodolfus Foundation Virtual Evensong

<https://www.therodolfusfoundation.org.uk/virtual-evensong>

Or you might like to listen to this ... Or just pray for Wales ...

'Finlandia' - A Prayer For Wales | The Sound Of Wales Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QebyWF7V6MI&feature=youtu.be>

For Wales our land ... O Father hear our prayer
This blessed vineyard granted to our care
May you protect her always faithfully
And prosper here all truth and purity
For your son's sake who bought us with his blood
O make our Wales in your own image Lord.
O come the day when o'er our barren land
Reviving winds blow sent from God's own hand
As grace pours down – on parched and arid sand
We will bear fruit - for Christ by His command.
Come with one voice and gentle vigour sing
The virtues of our gentle lamb and king
D'amdiffynn cryf a'I cadwo'n ffyddlon byth
O make our Wales in your own image Lord

(I am a strong defender and keep him faithful for ever)

Music : Music: Jean Sibelius © Public Domain Original Welsh poem 'Dros Gymru'n Gwlad' : Lewis Valentine (1893-1986), This English translation by Peter Cousins and Magnus Forrester-Barker. Additional lyrics © 2020 Dai Woolridge



The dragons at Caerphilly Castle!

From Rose Adams ...

Isaiah 26: 20

Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by.

inferior, inadequate	I	
introverted	S	suppressed, sad, solitary
oppressed, obsolete	O	
obsessed	L	lonely, lethargic, longing
afraid, anxious, aching	A	
	T	trusting, transformed, thriving
inspired, insightful, inner peace	I	
	O	optimistic, open-minded, OK
new-normal, nourished, needed	N	

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust the Lord with all your heart
And lean not on your own understanding
In all your ways submit to Him
And He will make your paths straight