

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

*February 9, 2022*

## NATURE'S HIDDEN WONDERS

Submerged under thick shiny ice the river freely flows and schools of cold-blooded fish hang out in survival mode together.

Above the dense, white clouds heavy with snow, the concealed atmosphere is an amazingly vibrant cerulean blue.

Hidden beneath the log fallen on the path in the snowy woods caterpillars, snails, and bumblebees hide until the warmth of spring beckons them, "Come out! It's time!"

Through the layers of skin, muscles, and tendons, the human heart nestles between two lungs, circulating life-giving, oxygenated blood. Give thanks for the miracle we are.

*Continued*

## ***Jesus Calls Disciples***

***Luke 5:1-11 (CEB)***

**5** One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God's word. **2** Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. **3** Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. **4**When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, "Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch."

**5** Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets."

**6** So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting.

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## NATURE'S HIDDEN WONDERS *Continued*

Oh, how often we see only the outer layer while the vulnerable one at the inner depths who meets the Holy One goes unnoticed!

At the depths of our beings dwells the Spirit of Christ and a sense of calm, once we sink past any anxiety, sadness, or anger.

May we give thanks for all that is submerged and cannot be seen within our limited views and behold the boundless beauty within.

## **The Net is Cast Wide**

My attention was first drawn to what is beneath the surface of the ice when walking a portion of the circumference of Standing Bear this past Monday. The next day when we walked at the OPPD Arboretum, there was even more awareness of what is underneath logs and rocks and even beyond the clouds. Perhaps curiosity grows when our eyes are not feasting on trees budding or grass greening as will happen in the springtime.

I hear this scripture of *Jesus Calling His Disciples* a bit differently this year when listening to people whose life feels overwhelming.

In prayer, let's drop the imaginary fishing line from our minds down into our hearts.

## ***Jesus Calls Disciples*** ***Luke 5:1-11 (CEB)***

*Continued*

7 They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!" 9 Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. 10 James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people." 11 As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

In that heart-space, release the feeling of dread and other burdens. You may be overcome with grief when a person close to you has died, or fearful during that period of waiting before or after surgery. Many are feeling fatigue from being alone during this pandemic and unable to get out and do what helps them be energized.

Picture the net being cast wide. You are enveloped in the compassionate love of Christ within the net. Breathe in a sense of peace and smile.

*God's love and peace to you and all,*

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler