

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

## Lauritzen Gardens

Stepping across the  
threshold of the botanical gardens  
We relax into the lovely  
August evening.

Enduring humidity  
and heat just a few days ago, breathing in  
cooler air refreshes like  
a sip of iced tea.

Wandering on the paths of  
wonder are young spirits ranging from barely  
four to a nearly eighty-four  
and in-between.

Scented salmon-colored  
roses are most exuberant and fine while  
pink and red blooms have spent their  
fragrance by now.

On this nearly still night bright  
yellow butterflies extend wings until  
wide as the span of a hand and gracefully  
glide in our view.

Continued

*August 10, 2022*

## **Psalm 19**

**19** Heaven is declaring God's glory;  
the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> One day gushes the news to the next,  
and one night informs another what  
needs to be known. <sup>3</sup> Of course,  
there's no speech, no words—their  
voices can't be heard—<sup>4</sup> but their  
sound[a] extends throughout the  
world; their words reach the ends of  
the earth.

God has made a tent in heaven for the  
sun. <sup>5</sup> The sun is like a groom coming  
out of his honeymoon suite; like a  
warrior, it thrills at running its  
course. <sup>6</sup> It rises in one end of the sky;  
its circuit is complete at the other.  
Nothing escapes its heat.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord's Instruction is perfect,  
reviving one's very being.<sup>[b]</sup> The  
Lord's laws are faithful, making naive  
people wise. <sup>8</sup> The Lord's regulations  
are right, gladdening the heart. The  
Lord's commands are pure, giving  
light to the eyes. *Continued*

## Lauritzen Gardens

Continued

Twelve hearts blessed while resting  
near the reflecting pool and hearing the  
divine speak through creation and  
scriptures of love.

End of summer days seem extra  
Precious as blooming flowers fade and insects  
And frogs warm up for another  
summer sonata.

## *Navigating these Times*

When the news tends to make people more contentious, it is good to immerse oneself in nature. While taking in God's creation, heart rates slow down. The world that we cannot control anyway, dissipates for the time being.

Of course, these issues are important but not so much that they keep us from being in relationship with our families and one another. By all appearances, this is one of those times that it seems important to give the job of judge back to God so that we can settle into a place of calm. While holy anger certainly has its purpose at times, how can we serve others (or sleep) if we are constantly appraising if our friends and family have it right or wrong?

Last night, few words were spoken while a group from Saint Paul walked the gardens together in safety. It was so nice to hear the birds sing and allow our hearts to compose blessings of gratitude as the scene of each garden unfolded.

## *Psalm 19*

*Continued*

<sup>9</sup> Honoring the Lord is correct, lasting forever. The Lord's judgments are true. All of these are righteous! <sup>10</sup> They are more desirable than gold—than tons of pure gold! They are sweeter than honey—even dripping off the honeycomb!

<sup>11</sup> No doubt about it: your servant is enlightened by them; there is great reward in keeping them.

<sup>12</sup> But can anyone know what they've accidentally done wrong? Clear me of any unknown sin <sup>13</sup> and save your servant from willful sins. Don't let them rule me. Then I'll be completely blameless; I'll be innocent of great wrongdoing.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

The order of the Victorian Garden is stunning, but no less so than the wildness of the Black-eyed Susans and bright zinnias. With all of our senses, we are reminded that God is present.

*May each of you know that you are loved and treasured as God created you. Prayers for Peace, love, hope, and serenity be with you.*

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler