

"Upon Reflection . . ." A Message from Fr. Gordon

March 19, 2018

Although the weather folks are predicting a significant snowfall for later this week -- the first week of Spring! -- we still have reason to be hopeful. We know that the white stuff won't stick long to the warmer earth, under a sun whose light gets higher and longer with each passing minute. And we can be hopeful, too, because winter will not cling long to our expectant souls . . . if we don't allow it to.

Granted, there is a lot of "winter" still left in us, enough to cause us concern, even alarm -- from the current political turmoil at home to protracted wars and conflicts overseas. We are struggling to maintain our liberties and laws in the face of challenges to them both from our elected leaders and from foreign adversaries. Many of us are also recovering from illness, or are undergoing medical treatment or awaiting surgery. We're worried about the safety of our children, the rising cost of living, the moral direction of our country and our world.

Yet Spring will arrive nonetheless in the midst of and in spite of these struggles -- as it always does -- both by way of the change of season and through the mercy and love of God. For by giving to us his resurrected Son, God has sent an eternal spring into our lives. He has shown to us the ultimate reason for hope, by revealing to us the source of all light and life. Ours is not a passive acceptance, of course, but rather an active witness to these gifts. Still, there is joy in the blessing and courage in the knowledge.

Rev. Ellen introduced me recently to a song called "Julian of Norwich" that captures very well, I think, this confident joy, even as it reminds us of God's never changing faithfulness season after season. Composed by Sydney Carter and based on words written by the medieval Christian mystic Julian of Norwich, the song declares simply that, by grace and lives marked by trust, "all shall be well." A fine recording of the song, performed by Ed Trickett and his folk trio, can be found on YouTube! Check it out and be encouraged!

"Loud are the bells of Norwich and the people come and go.
Here by the tower of Julian, I tell them what I know.

Ring out, bells of Norwich, and let the winter come and go.
All shall be well again, I know.

Love, like the yellow daffodil, is coming through the snow.
Love, like the yellow daffodil, is Lord of all I know.

Ring for the yellow daffodil, the flower in the snow.
Ring for the yellow daffodil, and tell them what I know.

All shall be well, I'm telling you, let the winter come and go.
All shall be well again, I know.

Loud are the bells of Norwich and the people come and go.
Here by the tower of Julian, I tell them what I know.

All shall be well, I'm telling you, let the winter come and go.
All shall be well again, I know."

Many blessings,
Fr. Gordon +