

## **Earth Care and Spirituality**

### **Spiritual Reflection**

**April 2021**

#### ***Little Darlings***

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#### *Little Darlings...*

That's the term of endearment into which I baptized the snowdrops my mom gave to me almost 20 years ago. She brought them (snuck them?) over 40 years ago from Penmon, a seaside village in North Wales, where she was born.

Every February the *Little Darlings* push their way out of the earth, no matter the weather. There may be snow sitting on top of them. Perhaps ice. Even frozen mud isn't unusual.

Nothing of such circumstances really matters because the *Little Darlings* seem to know only that regardless, the work of life is to keep doing what is true and to stay faithful and steady in that work.

It is in and through that process of maintaining steadfastness that we manage life's edges and tempo, no matter how bleak the conditions, no matter how difficult the terrain.

It is, ironically, that in and through that constancy, the beauty of life is brought forth, no matter in how small a form.

As usual, God gives us clues everywhere on how to live and be in this world.

With hints of an early spring and the weight and wait of resurrection hope all around, where is your image of a reliable tempo located?

The one year anniversary of having our lives become remote and distanced has rolled by - a rough year in so many ways. You have no doubt carried your own burdens and sorrows. We have carried them collectively. The pandemic begins to come under control. I pray you feel the comfort of your steady rhythms. I trust those tempos have helped you persevere.

Now spring has now arrived, with its longer reaches of daylight, and the snowdrops linger. February was six weeks ago and the *Little Darlings* have reached their peak. They stand their version of tall at 3 to 4 inches above the ground, with clusters of ivory petals. Upon the tip of each petal, in the innermost cluster, is a breath of green. It is a mighty shade of green that nods in the hopeful direction of things to come.

I think the *Little Darlings* understand most of the point of the story of God while here on earth ~ to walk in faith, no matter what life brings. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other, doing what you know to do. Turn toward the direction of God, - the direction of love, hope, peace, unity, justice, and mercy.

*Alleluia!*

*The Rev. Susan Maxwell is minister to the Centre Street Congregational Church, UCC, in Machias. She is a member of the Earth Care and Spirituality Resource Team. Susie and her husband Max live on Whiting Bay, where they witness God's tempo in the dramatic rise and fall of the tides.*