

Gods Presence.

How do we know God is present with us and around us?

Despite having heard the good news startlingly presented in the whole of the Crucifixion and the foretold resurrection of Jesus. Having followed his journey with the disciples as he went about teaching and performing miracles to display Gods power. Knowing that in a couple of week's time we'll be marking Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down to visibly mark out the disciples and give them the ability to speak in tongues so that they could proclaim the message of the Risen Christ, we still can't help ourselves looking around for a sign that's more of a "flash, bang" than the quiet whisper of the wind in the trees, the rain falling to give life to the earth, the Sun and blue skies, the bird song....the list is endless and it's all there to see and hear if we but will stop a moment and appreciate all these diverse signs of Gods presence and his love for his creation.

Given what the disciples had witnessed, the feeding of the 5000, Jesus calming the storm and walking on water and many other things, that he appeared to them in the week after the Crucifixion.... They were still initially shocked when the Holy Spirit descended upon them. It was unlooked for. Unexpected, if you will.

For us in these times we seem not to fully understand the true extent of those quiet miracles that are going on every day in our hospitals, care homes, hospices for those with the Covid19 and for the others who are seriously ill of other diseases or conditions, these are signs of Gods love and supporting us the best way in the moment.

The quiet strength He imbues in the selfless support of those around the ill, who are caring for them when their friends and family cannot due to the need for isolation. His reserves of patience and strength to those helping those who are struggling with the emotion and pain of helplessness that they have little control over the situation and wrestling, as we all are, with the pressures of necessary isolation when we most want to be able to grab hold of those suffering and wrap them in our love .

If we just take a moment, and wonder at the almost inexhaustible flow of love, compassion, caring, and most of all Hope, that is welling up in our society, we can see it's a sign of Gods love, his Covenant, with us, his creation. Just not as flashy as tongues of fire, but every bit as magnificent as the March winds and April showers that bring the flowers of May – another circle of life. As spectacular as a rainbow that heralds the end of a storm and the promise of better things.

We have Gods presence all around us and taking hope from that will be ready for the calm after the storm of these days and make the most of the next new cycle of life. That's his promise to us.

Charles Foucauld who was a French aristocrat, who lived between 1858 and 1916, was a cavalry officer, an explorer and eventually a catholic priest and hermit in Algeria said the following statement of hope and faith on the day he died:

It seems we do not love enough. How true it is we shall never love enough. But the

good Lord who knows from what mud He has fashioned us and who loves us more than any mother can ever love child, He who never lies, has told us that none who come to Him shall ever be rejected.

I think the words of the tune "Every Promise" by Stuart Townend and sung by Keith and Kristyn Getty, sums up the situation that we are indeed surrounded by God's presence and his enduring love is that Promise.

<https://youtu.be/ODpSIIIWkEM>

May the everlasting God bless us this day.
May He save and defend us from all that is evil,
And make us partakers of His heavenly kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ or Lord. Amen.