

RAINBOWS, A REMINDER

Monday, February 19, 2018, 5th Day of Lent

Genesis 9:12-15 New International Version

And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. . . ."

"Oh look!" Mom and I stood at the window, smiling at the stunning beauty of the rainbow in the sky. It stretched over the Stealey neighborhood of Clarksburg as big as all outdoors and as colorful as you can imagine. My mind flew right to this scripture and I said it right out loud from memory and my heart. Mom gave me a gentle hug and said, "I'm glad you remember that." It was a special moment that I will always cherish. As Mom and I enjoyed the beauty of God's love so brilliantly spreading across the sky, the bond of love between us shone.

Just as the love from parent to child shines, God's covenant of love to His children is steadfast and passionate, always present. We are nudged to be reminded of it every time we see the beauty of the rainbow. I love that He includes the animals, birds, fish, and all creatures great and small! His love is a divine, extraordinary gift for which we are thankful.

In the season of Lent we especially listen for Jesus, the mediator of the *new* covenant. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection make possible the divine relationship with our Creator. "Jesus took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.'"

Paul told the Corinthians that God gives us the ability to be ministers of the new covenant. We can love others with God's gift of love, and help them to know God personally. God will guide us as we show His love and acceptance. In the Spirit of God's grace, we can help people – listen with caring hearts to others, deliver firewood to someone in need, call an elderly neighbor to dispel loneliness, say "that's all right" when someone messes up, and plan a happy surprise for someone. *Everyone* needs to know God's love. *Everyone* needs to know that His love is so great and so personal, and that He implants that love into every one of His creations – *you* and *every living creature* for perpetual generations.

Prayer: Dear Lord, how precious it is to know your love deep down within our very souls. Thank you for your love among us – family, friends, neighbors all the world around, and animals, too. Thank you for rainbows and communion that remind us of your covenant. Help us to pay attention and to share your love with grace and joy! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

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