

May 13, 2024

Surprised by Joy
[Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#)

³³ I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.
³⁵ Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!

The whole of creation is like a song of joy sung by the Spirit of the Lord.

Interdependence is the order that God has given the world so that each created thing sounds a note in ongoing harmony.

One of the most spirit-filled moments that I have experienced occurred while leading a Volunteer-In-Mission team. As our work was concluding, we gathered for reflection, prayer, and finally singing.

The hymn "Amazing Grace" was sung in perfect harmony in two different languages. It came so effortlessly, surely the presence of the Lord was felt in that place and that time, Kelemenova, Russia.

In His presence our lives were connected by the gift from the same God that creates the entire world.

There is joy in singing in harmony and in the stillness of prayer. There is joy in the wondrous interdependence of God's creatures, in the necessity that we exist for one another.

There is joy in the gifts of life and spirit that we receive from God and in our rejoicing of those gifts. Consider these possibilities.

Prayer: *Oh God, we celebrate you as our creator our provider and sustainer. Open our hearts and minds to embrace all of your creation. Amen*

Connie Williams Trickett
Bethel United Methodist Church
Mountain Lake Park, Maryland
Church Council Chair, District Lead Team, DCOM, CLM