

Stop and Consider God's Wonders

*“Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.”* Psalms 96:12

*“Even the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you;
all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”* Isaiah 55:12

To celebrate our fifty-fifth wedding anniversary, Sandy and I traveled to Eureka Springs Arkansas with full intent to experience the Ozark Mountain scenery and find solitude in the great outdoors. The weather cooperated and our time in the town and the mountains was special for us. It always amazes me when a place to visit becomes a lesson in the formations of the earth, and all the associated sounds and joys it brings.

Nature is God's beautiful gift to those of us who love the outdoors and thrive in the Earth's beauty through all accompanying weather conditions. In nature, we hear messages from the divine in the sounds of winds, the roar of the sea, and the birds and animals speaking in their own language and resonances.

Wherever we went outdoors we heard music in the sounds prevalent throughout the earth. I think God must love music because of the abundance of sound in creation. God didn't just make one bird to sing, but millions of them to sing in their own way. When blended the sound is first chaos, but soon it makes a unified song that moves my soul. Walking through the woods by the lake at our home in Grapevine makes me think of the God who made the thunder of the waterfall we heard at Niagara Falls, the rustling of the leaves in the woods, the pounding of the waves on the shore in Galveston and New Smyrna, and Cocoa Beach Florida, and as near to us as the rhythmic beating of our heart. The Psalmist speaks of *trees clapping their hands for God*. It's a reminder that the whole world is alive with acclamation by creation.

God must love music because we find music everywhere in the Bible. Our ears can lead us right through the Bible – from the trumpet that blares on Mt. Sinai when God speaks to Moses. Music continues with the song of Miriam after the Exodus, to the great collection of the songs of David. New Testament songs begin with the heavenly choir at the birth of Jesus. It continues in Paul's admonition to worship God with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, to the awe-inspiring music of the book of Revelation.

More than the thoughts above, I am fascinated by the phrase “the bone-melting music of God.” It seemed a fitting phrase for a church like ours that worships through the music as well as the words. Thank you, Caleb, and Daria, and Emma. I'm only slightly prejudiced when I say: I think that's what our worship services are – a hint of the majesty of the music of God.

Peace always,

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