Rev's Reflections May 1, 2026

rain/water

Every month in America is a month to celebrate something, and last month had us observing two interconnected ideas: poetry and libraries. I thought a lot about my favorite poet of all time, William Carlos Williams.

Part of what I like about him is the simplicity of his words and the complexity of the images he creates. Not only the images described by the words, but also the images the words themselves subtly create on the page. Here's my favorite example:

so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens

For me, it's a theological masterpiece, the epitome of the process theology's emphasis on the moment as the driving energy in the creation of the ever-expanding universe. I'm always tickled by the way the four pairs of dependent words are split up, like wheel/barrow and white/chickens: They need each other, yet stand alone too. Like humans, living in dynamic tension.

This month, as we think about our worship theme of curiosity, I'm continuing to obsess a bit about Williams and his philosophy of "no ideas but in things." As a medical doctor, he was supremely curious about the body, the lives of his patients, and the world around him, noticing all the details in the physical objects that gave shape to the lives of himself and the people around him. Curiosity kept him young, engaged in his community, and full of joy.

And don’t we all need more joy in our lives?

In Peace,
Rev Denis