

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

So, in the March “Fish” we discussed a new word which was triggered by the long winter we have been facing, that word was **WONDERINGMENT!!!**

So here we are with May on the doorstep and we are still considering the many joys of the word **WONDERINGMENT** as a phenomenon because of our winter weather!!!

Indeed, we don't seem to be able to avoid the topic of winter weather. Even today as our May “Fish” is starting to take shape we can look outside and see yet another dusting of the white stuff, which is also known as “snow”!!!

Now, some of us were raised with a little phrase that goes like this in relation to March: “In like a lion and out like a lamb, in like a lamb and out like a lion”!!!

Now, some of us were raised with a little phrase that goes like this in relation to April: “April showers are sent to bring May flowers”!!!

Here we are coming up on the month of May forget” lions and lambs”, or even “showers and flowers” we are still dealing with that white stuff which is also known as “snow” coming down around us and we are left stuck with something called **WONDERINGMENT!!!** Indeed. The topic of the weather seems to be unavoidable this spring!!!

Well, in one of my favorite hymns which is called the “Hymn of Promise” #707 in our Hymnal, we find these words in the second half of the first verse: “In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season something God alone can see”. Who would have ever “think” it, we are looking at May knowing that underneath the snow there is a spring to come and we have found the topic of the weather to be unavoidable!!!

Well, when it comes to celebrating **CHRISTMAS** and **EASTER**, the **WONDER** of **GOD'S** gracious **LOVE** for us as God's Children, becomes unavoidable!!! Indeed, we can't bring up the topics of Christmas and Easter without bringing up God's love for us!!! Indeed, **GOD** **LOVES** us!!!

Indeed, God's precious gift of a little baby boy named Jesus born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph, proclaimed by angels, found lying in a manger by shepherds, visited by wise men, sparks the unavoidable topic of God's gracious **LOVE** for us!!! **CHRISTMAS** God's gift of love for the world, for you, and for me!!!

Indeed, God's precious gift of Jesus, the Son of God, from Palm Sunday, to the Last Supper, to Good Friday and the journey to the Cross, and the visit of Mary Magdalene to the “Empty Tomb”, sparks the unavoidable topic of God's gracious **LOVE** for us!!! **EASTER** God's gift of love for the world, for you, and for me!!!

Just as sure as “In the cold and snow of winter there's spring that waits to be”, we can be sure of God's gracious **LOVE** for us, not only on Christmas Day, not only on Easter Day, but **EVERY DAY!!!**

Love in Christ,

Dana