

## SPRING: NO “LOCKDOWN” IN NATURE

*“For behold the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, The time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in the land.”*

*-Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

**L**ook around! Contemplate the beauty of earth and the glory of the skies, as Mother Nature awakens from the long slumber of winter. In the midst of our current health crisis, there is no “lockdown” in nature. The fields are once more greening, the cherry-blossoms blooming; floral bouquets bursting in myriad colors announce the new season. The birds have returned from their southern migration – chirping in harmonious delight to see a new day!

At a time when we are bombarded with news of geopolitical conflict, economic meltdown and the continuing assault of COVID-19, the uninterrupted sequence of nature reminds us that there is a Grand Design, put in place by The Great Architect of the Universe, that remains on schedule: *“Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.” - Psalm 90:2.* There’s no lockdown in nature.

When Jesus taught His disciples, he used nature to illustrate God’s Abiding Love: *“And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.” –Matthew 6:28-29.*

Of course, our current anxieties stem from the tremendous uncertainties in which we live. We have lost many friends and colleagues to the pandemic, with no opportunity to say goodbye or to properly celebrate their lives. Many face possible unemployment, not knowing if their jobs will remain; there is food insecurity due to shortages of cash and/or supplies; loneliness and prolonged confinement could be problematic.

In the *Song of Solomon*, the *Divine Lover* speaks to His bride, the people of God, in terms of endearment and passionate love. We are invited to see the marvels of God’s creation and to enjoy, even for a season, what the Father has prepared for us. It is important to note, as Mechanics, that we KNOW that *“All flesh is like grass, and the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers and the flower thereof falls away.” -1Peter 1:24.* The progression of seasons, like the years of our lives, will bring ecstasy and at times, agony.

The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed nature to shine as never before, unfettered from human encroachment and destruction. It has also caused us to PAUSE, to appreciate how blessed we are by the gift of friends and family – Fraternal Brothers and Sisters the Creator has given us.

**HYMN:** For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies;  
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies;  
Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, God of all creation and Lover of our souls, the universe speaks of Your power and perfection, by which we are drawn to greater knowledge of Thee. Give us now a heart of wisdom to appreciate the gifts of nature, and also to grow and cultivate the bonds of family and friendships. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.