**The Revd Alison M Bailie**

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10th August 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

Where are you finding glimpses of God this summertime? Here is how some people have answered that question this summertime.

**Flowers**

“This year, summer has been cooler where I live, and the blossoms have lasted longer than usual. Every time I turn a corner, I see abundant blossoming that I’ve never noticed before: a white spirea, the blooms cascading down the branches like a waterfall. I pass bushes laden with lilacs, and their fragrance overwhelms me. And the peonies—those giant, deep-pink flowers overflowing a neighbour’s small garden. The beauty of these creatures is transient, but they speak to me of God, the ever-abundant Eternal.”

—Mary Frances Coady

**Birds**

“On a recent camping trip, we discovered that we were sharing our site with a tiny bird. The bird drew us in with a melodic birdsong like none we had ever heard. We loved just sitting quietly and listening to its song, trying to catch the occasional glimpse of the birdie among the trees around us. Eventually, though, we would find ourselves busied with some other thing and the song would seem to disappear. We found, though, that the wee bird was always there with us, and when we took the time to be still and listen for it, we were rewarded unfailingly with its unique and beautiful song. How like the voice of God was that little bird and its song—its voice always with us and heard with such beauty and mystery in the quiet moments of our day.”

—Cara Callbeck

**Wind**

“If you sit outside my mother’s kitchen on a hot summer afternoon, you can hear the evening wind gather itself at the mouth of the canyon almost a mile away. I catch the faint rustle of the oaks lining the dry creek bed, and then suddenly the cool air is upon me—a great gusting wind that blows away my lassitude along with the day’s heat. Each time I think here is the Holy Spirit: a pleasant coolness that banishes the heat, a rushing wind, and an impossible-to-ignore push to stand up and get to the work that God has called me to do. Veni Sancte Spiritus!”

—Michelle M. Francl-Donnay

**Light**

“When the rains of Hurricane Harvey finally stopped, I stepped outside to see the sun again. The previous days had been full of emergency evacuations, fears of how bad the house had flooded, and sleepless uncertainty of what the future was going to look like. I stood in a wet church parking lot and saw the setting sun lighting up the Holy Spirit window of Christ the Redeemer Church, and a calm settled over me. In that overwhelming moment of grace, I knew that God would never let us out of his protective embrace.”

—Kathleen Butler

**People**

“Finding God this summer? I guess I’m supposed to say something about beaches, crashing waves, flowers, or the beauty of creation. But, truth be told, I’ve started joining the Sant’Egidio community one night a week for companionship with some who may be homeless or who otherwise wish to connect with a friendly community in a public space near Grand Central. I’ve met smart, capable, friendly, witty, thoughtful men and women who defy stigmatizing, condescending stereotypes we often have about those whose housing or income realities may be difficult. Living in New York City, I see loads of folks in similar situations, almost every day; this summer has reminded me once again that when I see these folks, I’m seeing God’s face.”

—Chris Lowney

What about you? What are the sights and sounds, or the people and the places, where you’ve encountered God this summer? As Psalm 19 declares,

*The heavens proclaim the glory of God.  
    The skies display his craftsmanship.  
 Day after day they continue to speak;  
    night after night they make him known.  
They speak without a sound or word;  
    their voice is never heard.   
Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,  
    and their words to all the world.*

With my love in Christ and my prayers

Alison

**Sunday 15th August 10.30**

St John’s 10.30 am All Age

St Leonard’s 10.30 am All Age

Zoom 6.30pm Service of the Word