

April 16, 2024

Devotion:

Yesterday, I sat in my office reading about the scripture for Sunday's service, but I couldn't help looking outside. The sun was shining, a gentle breeze was blowing, a couple of bike riders went by, buds were forming on the trees. It was beautiful and a hymn kept coming back to me. The lyrics are:

*All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all*

*Each little flower that opens  
Each little bird that sings  
He made their glowing colours  
He made their tiny wings*

*All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all*

*The purple-headed mountain  
The river running by  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky*

*All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all*

*The cold wind in the winter  
The pleasant summer sun  
The ripe fruits in the garden  
He made them every one*

The hymn is *All Things Bright and Beautiful*. It was written by Cecil Frances Alexander and was included in her hymnbook titled "Hymns for Little Children." You read right Cecil is a woman. She is an Irish hymn writer and poet who lived from 1818-1895. She had a deep Christian faith and taught moral and spiritual lessons, especially for children. In this poem/hymn, she writes about how the natural world has great beauty and diversity and encourages us to recognize God's presence in every

part of our surroundings. The smallest flower or greatest natural structure celebrates God. Our God is lifted in appreciation and gratitude in all of creation. Alexander's poem/hymn reminds us of the beauty in all that God has made bringing a sense of awe and astonishment in all we see in nature.

As we begin to experience the beauty of spring, my prayer is that you will remember to give thanks to our Lord.

Happy Spring!!

Many blessings,

Pastor Cindy