

WELCOME! Well here we are on Week Three Already.

We continue with our Summer Sabbath Series titled “*A Fine Line*”. *And this week our topic is CHERISH: Fishing Lines, Clotheslines or Line Drives*

Think of all the ways we use the word "line." We have lines of poetry or music, walking the line, all along the line, line of fire, line of duty, out of line, read between the lines, lining your pockets, hold the line, flat line, getting a line on information and many more phrases. A row of persons is a lineup; there are lines on a map; we read between the lines, and to draw, we create a long, thin line. We have clotheslines, fishing lines and line drives in baseball. So many lines. We have a whole summer to practice these lines!

We hope you will take the opportunity to read, reflect, ponder and perhaps discuss with others, and most of all enjoy the time of reflection and ***Cherish*** the moments we have.

The Summer Sabbath Series 2019: *A Fine Line* is written by Janice MacLean, Host of the Prayer Bench.

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WEEK 3 CHERISH: Fishing Lines, Clotheslines or Line Drives

READ EXODUS 3:1-5

Moses at the Burning Bush

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb,^[a] the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. **3** Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." **4** When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." **5** Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

*"Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight,
and see why the bush is not burned up.'
Exodus 3:3*

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

We know this. Moses did too.
God is not always seen easily, or readily, or clearly.
We know this. And Moses did too.
We want to see God. Easily. Readily. Clearly.

We want to see God in the midst of our ordinary:
when we are fishing, our lines waiting for a tug,
when we are hanging beach towels on the line,
when we are playing baseball cheering a line drive.
We want to see God in the midst of our every day.

Moses is going about his daily business.
He is working for his father-in-law as a caretaker of a flock of sheep.

In this everyday pasture, Moses sees an ordinary bush
burning with a sense of Presence.

It compels him to turn aside and notice.
He takes off his sandals and lets himself be in the moment.
This is holy ground.
It's a beautiful story, a beautiful mystery.

Fact is, there are burning bushes everywhere. This I believe.
The miracle is turning aside to see, to notice, to pay attention.
The Divine is intricately woven into the material.
Incarnation is at the heart of the created order.
Everywhere is Holy Ground.

Everywhere.
Cherish the daily.
God is not always seen easily, or readily, or clearly.
But everywhere is holy ground.
Practice turning aside.

PRAYER

While we cannot always fully see the Heart of Fire, this we know.
"My Presence will go with you."

PRACTICE "READING BETWEEN THE LINES"

We pause to step back from the heat of the day
and the pace of our summer life.
If it is evening, name the activities of this day.
If it is morning, recall the day immediately past.
Choose ordinary moments you want to treasure
or bothersome moments that need repair.
Name them and hold them gently, lovingly.

Looking back, can you see moments
where you have drawn strength or pleasure or rest for your soul?
When you glimpsed new meaning?
Are there moments that stir you to compassion -
or move your heart to action?

You are seeing with the eyes of your heart.
You are seeing how we meet the Divine

in the midst of the ordinary
and in the stuff of daily life.

So as this day ends, or as the day goes on
we will not forget —
in the activities of all our days
we are meeting You already.
We are meeting you already.

*After you have prayed,
allow your heart to fill with gratitude.
Pray. Write a poem. Journal. Sing.
What you offer is a fine line!*