

Good Monday to you!

It is great to be back, communicating with you again! My teens and I had a nice time away for my holidays - a week at a cottage in the Muskokas was just what we needed to remember that the out-of-doors is not a scary place. Both teens even caught fish off the dock at the lake! (The fish were small, but thrilling and they were thrown back in promptly.) We will go back to that same cottage in August and also spend a couple of days tent camping in Algonquin Park too.

What is it about holidays that allow for unlimited time to read books? I finally got to some that have been on my to-be-read pile. (Sorry Judy and Richard, not the ones you've lent me.) For those interested what I read: Normal People, The Forgotten Home Child, The Scentkeeper and the memoir Dyke. What have you been reading?

There is something to be said for the expanse of time that allows for a sinking into a story, only to stop for sustenance (or a swim in the lake). It reminds me that I need to carve out that kind of time in my "regular life" to allow my brain to relax, recharge - to lie fallow, if you will.

My vegetable garden exploded while I was away, thanks to the regular watering of my neighbours. I bought tomato plants from my friend, Rev. Erin and from Dave Hall and one of them quadrupled in size: no idea who it was from, but it is massive! The bunnies continue to enjoy whatever I put in one corner of my raised garden, so I continue to have low expectations of anything I plant there. (Currently, it is swiss chard.) But, hey, it's only one corner and not everything, so I'm happy! My garlic is nearly ready to be harvested - waiting for a few dry days, as apparently this is a key to digging up garlic. The squash beside my garlic may just take over that area, or we might plant some beets there. I love the rhythm of the ground things right now - my grass is dying and my (fruit and) vegetables are thriving. Less grass, more gardens, less processed, more whole, less fast, more slow. I wonder if that is what summer is for?

"The long days of summer's light encourage anything that has enough moisture to stretch its utmost toward the sun. Our interior summer is also full of light and growth. These two features are essential elements of our spiritual transformation, just as they are necessary for nature's growth and development. When we are 'in the light' we are moved by an energy that assures us of our self-worth and our potential for growth. This assurance leads us into a period of energetic productivity where we develop our talents and gifts with enthusiasm. During this time, we are especially drawn toward activity that gives meaning to our life." (From the book *The Circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr.)

I wonder what talents and gifts you are developing this summer? As always, I'd love to hear about them.

Tomorrow - Tuesday July 21st:

Broadview Reading Club will meet via zoom. We have decided to discuss "Green Opportunity" on page 12 <https://broadview.org/covid-19-earth-renewal/> and "Working Through the Past: Germany" on page 30 <https://broadview.org/origin-stories-canadians-homelands/#germany>

Join the discussion here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/433401767>

## **Sundays**

**10am - [rideaupark.ca](https://rideaupark.ca)**

I will be livestreaming with my friends at Rideau Park into the future. You can click on the above link on a Sunday morning and "watch live".

I leave you with this beautiful prayer by Steve Garnaas-Holmes - printed here and recorded. Summer Blessings on you all, Jenni

## Awaken me

*Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.*  
—Ps. 139.7-10

God of infinite love,  
awaken me like Jacob  
to know you are in this place.  
In strange times, in new places,  
in unfamiliar circumstances,  
you are here.  
You walk with me.  
You bear the burden with me:  
you, my strength and wisdom.  
With me you see with new eyes  
and guide me as I find my way.  
Though I may journey in an unknown land  
your loving presence is steady.  
Though I may face difficulty and uncertainty  
your grace is sure and your blessing constant.  
I thank you. Awaken my gratitude.  
I need you. Deepen my trust.  
Open my eyes. Open my heart.  
God of infinite love, you who walk with me,  
give me faith to walk with you.  
Amen.