

October 30, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

SIMPLE GIFTS

By Julie Mussché

*"'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be."*

ELDER JOSEPH BRACKETT, *SIMPLE GIFTS*

Reflection

Last weekend, some longtime friends dropped by for a quick visit in between caring for a parent. They drove a distance to get here, and the time spent was less than a day but certainly treasured. Some friends are like a favorite pair of old shoes: no matter how long it has been since you have put them on, they are comfortable and provide support. Certainly, with getting older, one considers when and how, and sometimes if, visits with old friends who live a distance will happen. To be able to reconnect: a simple gift and pleasure.

Another instance of getting a glimpse of heaven's promise: while washing dishes about a month ago, I observed a father and daughter, neighbors across

the street, constructing something out of wood. They labored for hours although they seemed to be having a really good time despite the effort. It took a while to figure out what they were building: it was an outdoor lending library. What a delight, watching the meticulous precision with which the vessel was being assembled and detailed with paint and glass doors. Finally, the structure was situated solidly in the ground, ready to receive and lend books throughout the neighborhood. Naturally, I applauded them both for a job well done.

As we edge into a season of hearth, joining with family and friends and gratitude, it seems like the perfect time to reflect on and be present to the simple gifts that pass our way.



Friends walking on a bridge in Fairbanks Alaska
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- What simple gifts and pleasures have passed your way lately?
- As you reflect on these moments, what prayer of thanksgiving rises from

your heart?

For Prayer

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

ELDER JOSEPH BRACKETT, SIMPLE GIFTS

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