

Bishop Gerhard Preibisch

The Psalmist writes:

O LORD, our Sovereign. how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. When I look at your heavens. the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. (Psalm 8: 1, 3-5)

I was reminded of these words of the Psalmist as I watched the first green tulip shoots pushing through the ground this spring. Tulips are one of my favourite flowers. They remind me of how God cares for the creation.

The tulip is one of God's most delicate flowers. When the sun shines tulips open their blossoms and embrace the warmth of the sun. But when darkness approaches or rain threatens the delicate petals of the tulip close tightly in order to protect it from impending danger.

I cannot help but marvel how God, who created the universe, took the time to not only create this beautiful delicate flower but also to protect it daily from threatening elements. I marvel because of what this says about God's love for each one of us. Jesus, the Son of God, encourages us to remember – when we see how God takes such care of a flower, which blooms today and is gone tomorrow – how much more God must care for us and for every human being.

Certainly the season of Lent, Holy week and Easter have once again reminded us of God's love for the world and especially for the human family. The tears of Jesus – the anguished cry from the cross – demonstrate that God feels our pain, our distress and our sorrow. God identifies with our human condition.

As the Psalmist says, God is indeed mindful of us! By raising Jesus from the dead God has crowned us with glory and honour forever. We are God's Easter people! We live with confidence in the promise of Christ: “because I live, you also will live.... (John 14 :19)

Although in Jesus we have the assurance that God has overcome every evil which assails us, we know that life for many does not resemble someone tiptoeing through a tulip field. Life for many is often very fragile. It is easy to become discouraged. Sometimes, while dark threatening clouds hang over us, the sun seems to be shining brightly on everyone else. But we need not despair – daily, God's love, like the petals of the tulip, enfolds, and protects us..

When I consider the beauty and majesty of creation I am awed that we are loved by God who not only created this world but came into our world and in Jesus suffered and died for us. Our baptism reminds us that Jesus' death was for us. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that God has destined us not for death, but life.

May we with confidence embrace God's love and be that love for others in our world today.

Bishop Gerhard Preibisch