



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

MARCH 2020

THE MIRACLE OF SPRING

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."
~Margaret Atwood~

There's nothing quite like the fragrance of the earth on a warm Spring day when plants begin to blossom. It is the time of year when many trees and shrubs look as if they are most certainly dead but then suddenly they spring to life. It is the miracle of Spring.

We begin watching for signs of Spring even as early as February 2nd when we look to see if the groundhog sees his shadow, and we hope he doesn't because the legend says that if he does, he will be frightened back into his den and we will experience yet another six weeks of winter. I thought maybe any old groundhog would do for the shadow test but according to the inner circle in Punxsutawney, PA. any ground hog other than Phil are simply weather predicting imposters.

The word "Spring" itself is from Old English meaning "the place of rising or issuing as in a wellspring, the source of a stream or spring."

Spring doesn't happen at quite the same time every

year. According to Vernal—you know— Vernal Equinox? He visits every year on March 20, or 21st, but the time and date vary slightly.

Seriously, the Vernal Equinox is the time that the sun crosses directly over the earth's equator. (The word equinox translated literally means "equal night") When this happens, night and day are approximately the same length all over the earth. This is how the official first day of spring is determined. Although Spring is officially here, we have yet to see very many days of mild weather that we can really get out and do something in our gardens and yards. As Henry Van Dyke said, "The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

The word, "Spring", even has a cheery ring to it that makes us feel more energetic and we long to get outside and plant something, anything, even if it is just a flower in a pot, so we don our jackets and search for signs of spring. It doesn't take long to see the buds on the trees, the Johnny-jump-ups, daffodils, and other tips

of green plants pushing through the soil.

Everyone tends to anticipate the warmth of Spring weather and begin to think about planting season. Folks can be heard talking about Spring and some try to out do each other with how early they expect to plant potatoes or radishes in their gardens. One overachiever that I know, plants tomatoes in March and puts an old tire over each plant. He puts water inside the curve of the tire and then covers it with plastic. As the tomato grows, he just adds another tire to adjust for the height. When the weather permits, he removes the tires and has a tomato plant nearing maturity. He is always sure to have the first ripe tomato to brag about to his friends. We all tend to get anxious for Spring to arrive, especially if it has been a hard winter. After being snowed in for a few days, cabin fever sets in and we long for Spring. We even begin to think about mowing the yard, having forgotten all about how tired we were last year from mowing every week. In Frances Hodgson Burnett's book, The Secret Garden, young Mary Lennox's

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- MAXINE
- SHARON
- RICKY & RENEE
- JAN
- THE LOST
- THE ADDICTS
- PRAYER BOARD
- ASIAN MISSIONS
- JAIL MINISTRY
- NURSING HOME MINISTRY
- OUR CHURCH
- OUR TEACHERS
- OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR
- YOUR PASTOR & FAMILY
- ROBERT H.
- WAYNE & DEBBIE
- JUDY
- JAMIE
- CAROL E
- PATSY
- JUNIOR
- ANITA
- JEREMY
- GARRETT
- JAMES
- SHEILA
- OUR FUND RAISER
- JERRY & BARBARA
- HAROLD
- MR SPEERS

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guardian, Mr. Craven, asks her if there is anything that she wants such as toys, books, or dolls. Mary's reply takes him by surprise when she simply asks him, "Might I have a bit of earth?" When Mr. Craven asks the reason for her unusual request she says, "To plant seeds in—to make things grow—to see them come a l i v e , "

Perhaps that is why we yearn for Spring. It could be that we all long for a peaceful, verdant garden. After all, life began in a garden. It could be that we, like Mary Lennox, want a bit of earth "to plant seeds in—to make things grow—to see them come alive", and to observe the miracle of Spring.

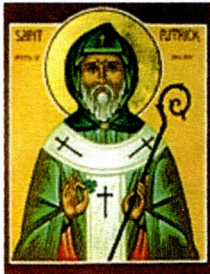
The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven -
All's right with the world!
~Robert Browning



THE LIFE OF SAINT PATRICK

The Patron Saint of Ireland was born into either a Scottish or English family in the fourth century. He was captured as a teenager by Niall of the Nine Hostages who was to become a King of all Ireland.

He was sold into slavery in Ireland and put to work as a shepherd. He worked in terrible conditions for six years drawing comfort in the Christian faith that so many of his people had abandoned under R o m a n r u l e .



Patrick had a dream that encouraged him to flee his captivity and to head South where a ship was to be waiting for him. He travelled over 200 miles from his Northern captivity to Wexford town where, sure enough, a ship was waiting to

e n a b l e h i s e s c a p e .

Upon arrival in England he was captured by brigands and returned to slavery. He escaped after two months and spent the next seven years travelling Europe seeking his destiny .

During this time he furthered his education and studied Christianity in the Lerin Monastery in France. He returned to England as a priest. Again a dream greatly influenced him when he became convinced that the Irish people were calling out to him to return to the land of his s e r v i t u d e .

He went to the Monastery in Auxerre where it was decided that a mission should be sent to Ireland. Patrick was not selected for this task to his great disappointment. The monk that was selected was called Paladius, but he died before he could reach Ireland and a second mission w a s d e c i d e d u p o n .

Patrick was made a Bishop by Pope Ce-

lestine in the year 432 and, together with a small band of followers, travelled to Ireland to commence the conversion.

Patrick confronted the most powerful man in Ireland Laoghaire, The High King of Tara as he knew that if he could gain his support that he would be safe to spread the word throughout Ireland. To get his attention Patrick and his followers lit a huge fire to mark the commencement of Spring. Tradition had it that no fire was to be lit until the Kings fire was complete, but Patrick defied this rule and courted the confrontation with the King.

The King rushed into action and travelled with the intention of making war on the holy delegation. Patrick calmed the King and with quiet composure impressed the King that he had no other intention than that of spreading the word of the Gospel. The King accepted the missionary, much to the dismay of the Druids who feared for their own power and position in the face of this new threat. They commanded continued on next page

THE LIFE OF SAINT PATRICK continued. . . .

that he make snow fall. Patrick declined to do so stating that this was Gods work. Immediately it began to snow, only stopping when Patrick blessed himself.

Still trying to convince the King of his religion Patrick grasped at some Shamrock growing on the ground. He explained that there was but one stem on the plant, but three branches of the leaf, representing the Blessed Trinity. The King was impressed with his sincerity and granted him permission to spread the word of his faith, although he did not convert to Christianity himself.

Patrick and his followers were free to spread their faith throughout Ireland and did so to great effect. He drove paganism (symbolized by the snake) from the lands of E i r e a n n .

Patrick was tempted by the Devil whilst on a pilgrimage at Croagh Patrick. For his refusal to be tempted, God rewarded him with a wish. Patrick asked that the Irish be spared the horror of Judgement Day and that he himself be allowed to judge his flock. Thus, the legend that Ireland will disappear under a sea of water seven

years before the final judgement, was b o r n .

Patrick died on March 17th in the year 461 at the age of 76. It is not known for sure where his remains were laid although Downpatrick in County Down in the North of Ireland is thought to be his final resting place .

His influence is still felt to this day as Nations the world over commemorate him on March 17th of every year.

NEVER JUDGE SOMEONE BASED ON A SEASON

- **One** season **David** was a shepherd,
the next he was a king!
- **One** season **Ruth** was working in
the field, the next season she was
owning the same field!
- **One** season **Mordecai** was sitting
outside the king's palace, the next
season he was inside the palace!

We serve a **God** who **turns** things!
around, the **God** of unmerited favor!



SPRING HILL CHURCH
3038 E WALNUT AVE.
DALTON, GA 30721

SUNDAY SCHOOL.....10:00AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP.....11:00AM
SUNDAY NIGHT.....6:00PM
WEDNESDAY NIGHT.....7:30PM

EVERYONE WELCOME



GOD SAID

I need you to get excited again. I need you to remember you're not in this thing alone. I'm working on your challenges. I've already assigned angels to you. So let go of the stress & just trust Me. I've got a pretty incredible ending in store. In fact, that's why you need to get excited again. . .because the happy ending I've got coming is going to **ROCK. YOUR. WORLD.**

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

ROMANS 1: 20, 21



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