

Reflections and Thoughts from the Mission Valley May 1, 2020

By Rev. Derf Bergman

"Spring has now unwrapped the flowers, day is fast reviving
Life in all her growing powers toward the light is striving:
Gone the iron touch of cold, winter time and frost time,
Seedlings, working through the mould, now make up for lost time.

Herb and plant that, winter long, slumbered at their leisure,
Now bestirring, green and strong, find in growth their pleasure:
All the world with beauty fills, gold the green enhancing;
Flowers make joy among the hills and set the meadows dancing.

Earth puts on her dress of glee, flowers and grasses hide her;
We go forth in charity, brothers all beside her;
For, as man this glory sees in this awakening season,
Reason learns the heart's decrees and hearts are led by reason.

Praise the Maker, all ye saints, He with glory girt you,
He who skies and meadows paints, fashioned all your virtue;
Praise him, seers, heroes, kings, heralds of perfection;
Brothers, praise him, for he brings all to resurrection!" (The Flower Carol, 1582)

"You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them.

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice." (Ezekiel 34:3-6, 11, 14-16)