

Dear Friend

Today is the feast day of Christina Georgina Rossetti (5 December 1830 – 29 December 1894) who was an English poet who wrote various romantic, devotional, and children's poems. "Goblin Market" and "Remember" remain famous. (Source Wikipedia). You will almost certainly have sung her words as she wrote two very well known Christmas carols, "In the Bleak Midwinter", and "Love Came Down at Christmas". Love, both romantic love and divine Love, are central themes in her poetry. Here are the first three verses from her poem 'What Good Shall My Life Do Me?':

No hope in life; yet is there hope

In death, the threshold of man's scope:

Man yearneth (as the heliotrope

For ever seeks the sun) thro' light

Thro' dark for Love: all read aright

Is Love for Love is infinite.

Shall not this infinite Love suffice

To feed thy dearth? Lift heart and eyes

Up to the hills, grow glad and wise.

Christina Georgina Rossetti

Christina together with some of her family, were members of the Pre-Raphaelites, artists who looked for a return to a true depiction of nature, who delighted in detail and bright colours in their paintings. When life is so restricted at the moment, the call to return to observing the natural world, is a call we can all respond to. Everything in nature can speak to us, not necessarily of Love, human or divine, but certainly of beauty and also of power.

There are many today who may feel there is no hope in life, and equally no hope in death. Easter speaks powerfully of hope both in this life and beyond the grave. There is, as Rosetti expresses, within the human spirit, a yearning for Love. For the Christian, that yearning finds complete fulfilment in Jesus - the embodiment of Love - Love all lovely, Love divine. This love alone meets our deepest needs and satisfies our deepest longings. But we need to "lift heart and eyes up to the hills", an echo of Psalm 121, which calls us to recognise that the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, is the source of our help. Although we may not be able to see any hills from our window, we can still lift our eyes and our heart to that hill "without a city wall" to see the Lord who was himself lifted up to draw all people to himself. True joy and true wisdom will grow in our lives when we truly see infinite Love, crucified and risen again. May the Lord God Almighty, who was worshipped by angels and archangels as they gathered beside his manger in Bethlehem, help us to recognise the abject poverty and inadequacy of any response of ours. The most acceptable offering we can make to God is to give him our heart. When we do, he gives us his and we have an unshakeable hope both for the present and for the future, that God has taken our heart and made it his home, and has taken his heart and made it our home.

Verses for today:

The Lord watches over you—

the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

the sun will not harm you by day,

nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—

he will watch over your life;

the Lord will watch over your coming and going

both now and forevermore.



Psalm 121.5-8

A couple of nature sayings to bring a smile to the flowers on your face (tulips of course!)



Why did the sun go to school?

To get brighter.

What do you get when you cross a cat with a lemon tree?

A sour puss.

Source: scary mommy.com

May you have a blessed day full of gladness and wisdom, knowing that the Lord is watching over you - so don't forget to be entertaining either!

Simon