

*A Grateful Heart*



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# *Springtime Thoughts*

Thank You, dear Jesus,  
For yet another Spring,  
To see flowers blooming,  
To hear little birds sing.  
How sweet Your love  
To give again to me  
This promise of new life  
Because I trust in Thee.

Virginia Luers

# Joy

There are flowers that bloom for only a day,  
Without ever questioning why,  
Their gift of beauty is freely given  
To whomever is passing by.  
Each bud that opens to the morning sun  
Knows it's part of an eternal plan  
Created by God so long ago,  
When this very world began.  
"Time, itself, has no meaning to us,"  
A flower might say to mankind.  
"It's the essence of all that you see, feel, and hear  
That stays in your heart and your mind."  
Life only can be lived in the moment;  
All else is just memory.  
So be like the flowers and savor the joy  
Of being the best you can be.

Alora M. Knight

*Learn to savor how good  
the Lord is; happy are those  
who take refuge in Him.  
Psalm 34:9*







# *When God Is Welcome in Your Home*

When God is welcome in your home,  
Oh, what a haven it will be,  
For family is so special –  
Of this I'm sure you will agree!  
A mother is more nurturing  
And a father truly cares;  
A son and daughter more obedient  
When a family lifts their hearts in prayer.  
A sister is more fun to share with  
And a brother stands by when you're in need;  
A family blossoms like a garden  
When love is in each seed.  
There seems to be plenty of healthy laughter  
And many a listening ear;  
When a family yields to God's great love,  
He'll guide through every fear.  
So extend your hands heavenward  
And ask God to come inside,  
For if you bend unto His Holy Will  
In your home and heart He will abide.

Linda C. Grazulis





## *God's Miracles*

The chill of Winter now is past  
And signs of Spring are here...  
On barren branches warmed by sun,  
The tender buds appear.  
The black and white of wintry days  
Have changed to colors bright...  
The brilliant sun throughout the day  
Now warms the dark of night.  
This miracle comes every Spring,  
A wonder in God's plan...  
The secrecy of "how" and "why"  
Unknown to every man.  
New life should be inspiring  
And a joy to everyone...  
Awakening the sleeping earth  
Means new life has begun.  
Since Nature has a quiet way  
Of saying, "Peace, be still"...  
We just might hear Him whisper,  
"It's according to My Will."

Anna M. Matthews

# *A Heart of Gratitude*

I have a heart of gratitude  
For all You've given me.  
I daily reap Your blessings  
And I'm thankful as can be.  
I thank You for the breath of life,  
For health and strength each day.  
I'm thankful for the food and clothes  
You've seen fit to send my way.  
I thank You for the sun and rain,  
For flowers all in bloom.  
You fill my life with beauty;  
There's no place at all for gloom.  
Your presence is like sunshine  
That lifts my spirit high.  
You teach me ways to serve You –  
All I have to do is try.  
As I survey the wondrous beauty  
Of the world in which I live,  
My heart responds with gratitude,  
As my life to You I give.

Frances Culp Wolfe





# *All These Blessings*

Happiness, contentment, faith and joy  
Are mine each day I wake.  
For God has shown me time and again  
These blessings are mine to take.  
The sun in the morning and moon at night,  
Along with the twinkling stars,  
Are reminders as I look up at each...  
Between them and me, there are no bars.  
I've food to eat and clothes to wear,  
And love this home I'm in.  
It's where I always want to come,  
No matter where I've been.



My ears still hear and eyes still see  
These friends and neighbors dear.  
As long as God is by my side,  
I've nothing here to fear.  
The smell of Spring brings life renewed  
After a Winter of bitter cold.  
I'd rather work in His flower beds  
Than have a pocket full of gold.  
God supplies my every blessing;  
For me, He knows what's best.  
One day, I'll leave this earthly home  
To dwell with Him in perfect rest.

M. Elaine Fowser



# *God Is Awesome*

Oh, loving hidden Godhead  
Within this heart of mine,  
I am forever grateful  
For the generous gifts of Thine.

Somehow I am awestruck,  
At the fields of fresh green clover  
And the magnificent colorful rainbow  
Which the clouds sail over.

The blue sea's waves lap gently  
Upon the sandy shore.  
Mountain peaks are lost in clouds  
Against sun's golden core.

The melodious songs of the nightingale,  
With crickets and locust, lend  
Enchantment to the forest  
As the twilight starts to bend.

Oh yes, my God is awesome,  
And alive I'm glad to be;  
He never wanted anything  
But the best for you and me.

Shirley Hile Powell



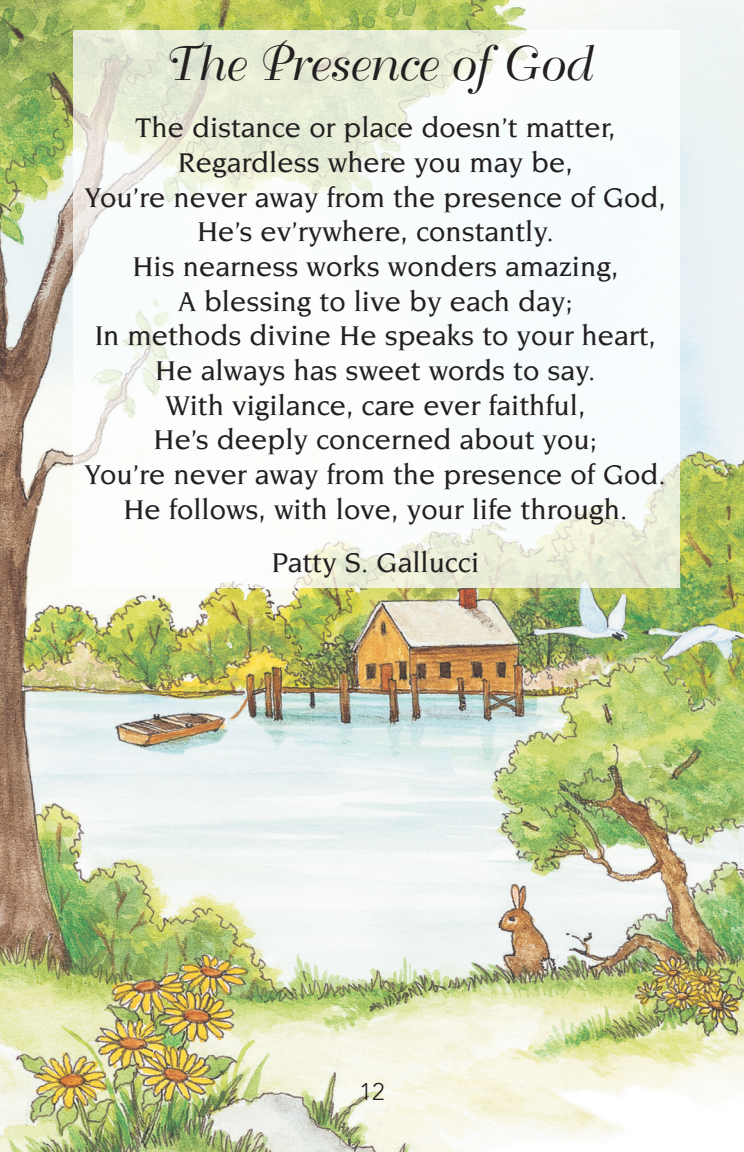


# *The Presence of God*

The distance or place doesn't matter,  
Regardless where you may be,  
You're never away from the presence of God,  
He's ev'rywhere, constantly.

His nearness works wonders amazing,  
A blessing to live by each day;  
In methods divine He speaks to your heart,  
He always has sweet words to say.  
With vigilance, care ever faithful,  
He's deeply concerned about you;  
You're never away from the presence of God.  
He follows, with love, your life through.

Patty S. Gallucci



# *Real Living*

There's a grace and a beauty to living  
When Christ the Lord leads the way;  
There's a wholeness and gladness in giving  
That comes from the heart every day.

There's a cheer as we walk toward Heaven,  
Knowing that our future lies  
In serving the One who made us,  
And blesses the one who tries.

It's being aware that each moment  
Has purpose and value within,  
And every new day that beckons  
Is just the right day to begin!

Margaret Peterson



# *Summer in the Country*

Golden Summer stretches  
Beneath a country sun;  
Shadows dabble country roads...  
The lush time has begun;  
Beauty almost painful,  
Grandness fine and true,  
My Winter heart can barely hold  
The splendor of this view.  
And oh, a lyric time as well;  
Birds chorus melodies,  
As surf plays rattled undertone  
To wind chimed willow leaves...



Red barns aflame like fires  
Beneath blue ocean sky,  
Fence and daisy side the road  
For dreamers biking by.  
And oh, the green is everywhere  
In emeralds, darks and pales,  
In butter tipped and lake cool deep,  
In dapples, dots and trails.  
The country in the Summer...  
Half dream, half odyssey, half fable  
Is light, is storm, is cool, is warm,  
Is feast upon God's table.

Bea Lotz

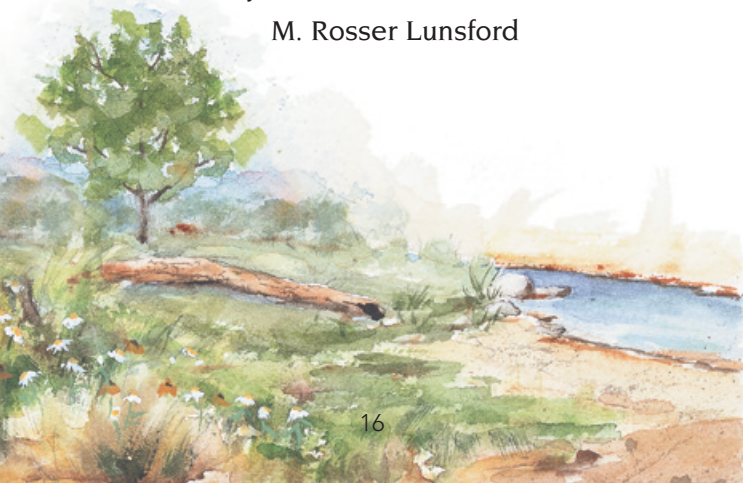




## *A Summer Thought*

Let me walk in the woods of home  
On a peaceful Summer day,  
And know the joy of being alone  
Where God's little creatures play.  
Let me sit by the shallow creek  
Where hangs the new muscadine  
And watch the diving osprey streak  
From atop some lofty pine.  
Let me lie in the woven shade  
Of an ancient sweetgum tree  
And watch white clouds slowly fade  
Into the massive marquee.  
Let me feel the warmth of the sun  
Where wildflowers bow with bloom,  
And let me rest when day is done  
In my chosen wooded room.

M. Rosser Lunsford



# Trust

The little sparrow knows not  
What the day will bring along,  
And yet he greets the morning sun  
With a cheerful heart and song.  
The dainty little daisy thrives  
In weather fair and warm,  
Yet sturdily it stands with trust  
To brave the passing storm.  
The oak tree bares its branches  
When the cold winds start to sting,  
Then it waits, trusting in God,  
For new growth in the Spring.  
A caterpillar goes to hide  
Inside its thick cocoon,  
Not knowing he will change  
Into a butterfly come soon.  
All of Nature rests on God –  
With faith, He will provide,  
And I know He loves me so –  
To trust then, so shall I!


Joyce Mary Ecochard

*I trust in Your faithfulness. Grant  
my heart joy in Your help, That I  
may sing of the Lord, "How good  
our God has been to me!"*


*Psalms 13:6*



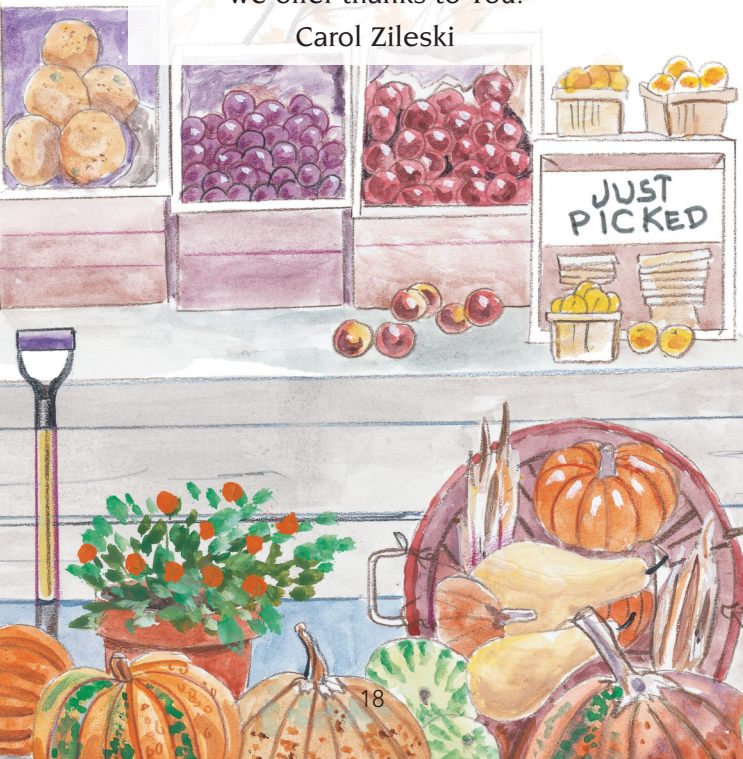
# *Prosperous Substance*



God, You make us prosperous  
In each way, type and form.  
You provide great bounty  
Each evening and at morn.  
Your goodness abounds to us,  
Much thanks is always due.  
You give substance to all things,  
We offer thanks to You.



Carol Zileski



# Gratitude

Don't wait 'til you're needing a blessing  
That will lighten your burden of care;  
Turn to your heavenly Father  
And put all of your heart in a prayer.

Turn to Him in your gladness  
When everything seems so all right;  
Praise Him for all of His goodness  
That made your world happy and bright.

He deserves so much more than our sorrows,  
Which often we lay on His breast –  
He's deserving our sincerest praises  
And all in our lives that is best.

Rachel Hartnett

*Let the Word of Christ dwell in  
you richly, as in all wisdom you  
teach and admonish one another,  
singing psalms, hymns, and  
spiritual songs with gratitude in  
your hearts to God.*

*Col. 3:16*





Your love is before my  
eyes; I walk guided by  
Your faithfulness.

Psalm 26:3

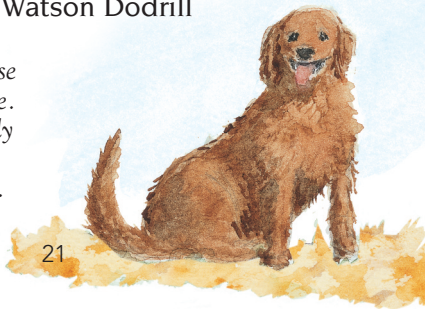


# *Children's Laughter*

The joy of children's laughter  
Is a precious gift from God;  
It rings in from the playground  
Where they run with feet unshod.  
With the freedom of their innocence,  
Where life's a magic place,  
Days are filled with fantasy  
Wrapped in a dream's embrace.  
A child's laughter is full of truth  
From a heart that's open wide,  
Daydreams, rhymes and fairy tales  
Are sheltered there inside.  
There wrapped in every child's smile  
Is a request for every man  
To hold onto the wistfulness  
As tightly as they can.  
In the sound of children's laughter  
Is a treasure full of love,  
A precious gift to humankind  
From our Father up above.

Nancy Watson Dodrill

*But I can enter Your house  
because of Your great love.  
I can worship in Your holy  
temple because of my  
reverence for You, Lord.  
Psalm 5:8*



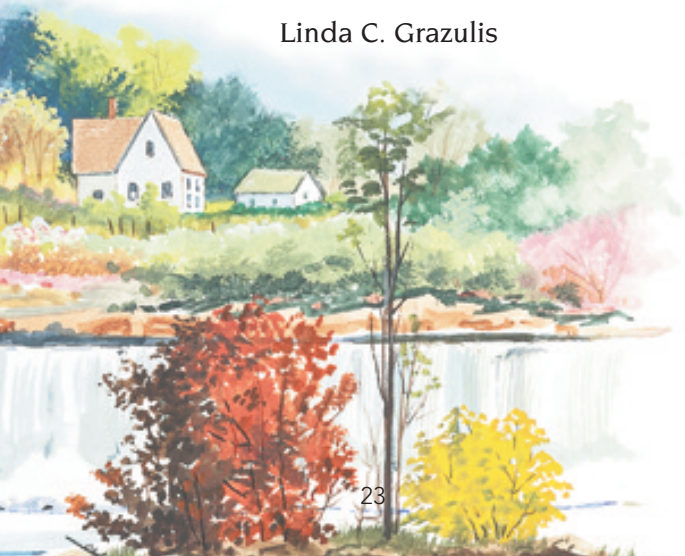
# *A Replay of Autumn's Splendor*

It's a replay of Autumn's color again –  
Just glance around and see  
The bright red hues and verdant greens  
Sent to mesmerize both you and me.  
The golden maples, scarlet oaks  
Arrayed in such a garb of glow;  
Let's relish in Autumn's style and décor,  
Even when fallen leaves drift and flow.



Autumn's palette is rich in textures  
And she blends them with a masterful touch,  
As we admire her uniqueness and melancholia  
Let's praise God for giving of Himself so much!  
Turquoise, pumpkin orange, and russet brown,  
Dandelion yellow, crimson red, shiny golds,  
Autumn creates beautiful memories in the heart...  
Storybooks of love during Fall to unfold.  
A seasonal replay of Autumn's splendor  
Is welcomed from year to year,  
Such a gorgeous kaleidoscope of wonder –  
May we hold her chest of treasures very dear!

Linda C. Grazulis





# *A Patch of Brightness*

There is a patch of brightness  
That lightens every day;  
It shines when skies are bluest  
And, too, when they are grey.  
It warms my inner being  
And dissipates the cold;  
This little patch of brightness  
Is God's sunlight in my soul.

Loise Pinkerton Fritz





# *The Comfort of God*

As the morning begins,  
I think of God's love –  
How I should try to be  
More like Him above.  
A chance to help others  
Comes with each new day;  
Spreading God's Holy Word,  
Helping them to pray.  
The gladness in my heart,  
The good I can see,  
Comes from the love of God  
That dwells within me.  
Sharing my faith in God,  
Helping lost souls heal,  
Restores both our hopes...  
Brings the comfort I feel.  
As the sun slowly sets,  
Thanks to God I send  
For the blessings of life,  
His love without end.

Mary A. Bourdeau



# *If I Had Wings*

If I had wings I'd go  
To the place where north winds blow,  
All my troubles left behind  
As the cloudy paths I'd find.

If I had wings I'd rise  
Like the birds up through the skies,  
Trav'ling swiftly through the air  
Without any earthly care.

If I had wings I'd know  
All the places small clouds go;  
With the eagles I would soar  
Till earth's view would be no more.



If I had wings I'd be  
Far above the highest tree  
And with the stars I'd play,  
Trav'ling on the Milky Way.  
I would follow angel trails  
And my strength would never fail;  
In the midst of stars that twinkle  
Through the heavens I would sail.  
Into the heavens I'd swiftly fly  
Through the azure colored sky,  
And someday I'd fly so high  
To where we'll never die.  
Close to Heaven's door I'd be  
And the Angels I would see;  
All the heavenly sights before me –  
Closer to my God I'd be.

Helen Gleason



## *Thanks Be to God*

It's a God who really loves us,  
Who puts glitter in the snow,  
Casts the moon the color of silver  
To give us a nighttime glow.  
Only God can change the color  
Of a sky that's sometimes grey  
To a blue or sometimes crimson  
As the night creeps up on day.  
God is there where there's a rainbow  
Made by sun through drops of rain  
And when Winter ends its season,  
Makes the flowers bloom again.  
We see God through Mother Nature –  
He puts beauty everywhere.  
We must answer to His goodness  
With a heart that is filled with prayer.

Edna Fontaine

# *River of Peace*

A river of peace  
Flows through my soul,  
Renewing my faith  
And making me whole.

It's not a still pool  
Stagnant and cold,  
But a bubbling stream  
Effervescent and bold.

Constantly flowing,  
A current so strong;  
God's love within me  
All my life long.

When I am surrounded  
By earthly discord,  
I look inward to find  
The peace of the Lord.

Micki Dolan

*Then the angel showed me  
the river of life-giving water,  
sparkling like crystal,  
flowing from the throne of  
God and of the Lamb.  
Rev. 22:1*





## *Peaceful Moments*

Learn to listen, and listen to learn;  
It isn't hard to do.

God may have an urgent message  
He wants to send to you.

Some say silence is golden,  
For the weary soul finds rest  
As peace descends from the shadows  
To feather our nest.

In these quiet, peaceful moments,  
We leave our cares behind  
As the sights and sounds of Nature  
Help us to unwind.



Have you gazed at the stars at night  
And marveled at the show,  
Or stood transfixed beside the sea  
To watch the whitecaps glow?  
Have you watched snowflakes falling,  
Each a different design,  
And realized in that moment  
That Nature is divine?  
We take so much for granted  
In the hubbub of the day  
And often miss peaceful moments  
That God sends our way.

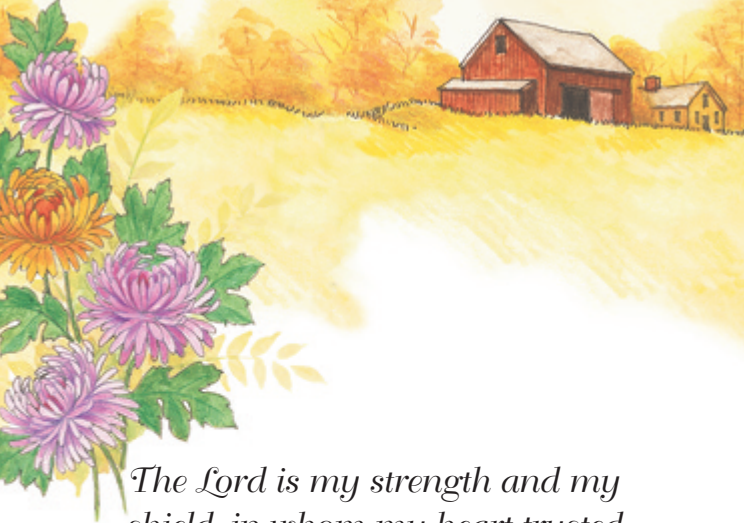
Clay Harrison



## *God's Abiding Love*

Dear God, I lift my thanks to Thee  
For always being near;  
Whenever I seek a helping hand,  
I know my prayers, You'll hear.  
Ever-loving God, You comfort my soul  
With such peace You bestow upon me –  
And deep within my troubled heart,  
It eases my misery.  
When I am down, You lift me up,  
Never do I feel forsaken;  
You shower me with blessings, Lord,  
No matter the pathways I've taken.  
There is so much to thank You for,  
Dear Father, at the close of each day;  
So, for each and every loving gift to me,  
I humbly give You thanks, as I pray!

Mary S. Chevelier



*The Lord is my strength and my  
shield, in whom my heart trusted  
and found help. So my heart rejoices;  
with my song I praise my God.*

*Psalms 28:7*

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