

*For the Beauty of the Earth* John Ritter

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies;  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:  
    Lord of all to you we raise  
    this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r  
sun and moon and stars of light  
    Lord of all...

For the joy of human love:  
brother, sister, parent, child.  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
    Lord of all...

For each perfect gift of time  
to our race, so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
flowers on earth and buds of heaven  
    Lord of all...

Prayer Leader:  
Cheryl Keehner, CSA  
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## Why God Created June



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

*Be still and know that I am God!*

In that silence we listen for a new word.

God is present in all our lives.

God cares for us, and  
our life experiences are a source  
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence  
we share from our hearts.

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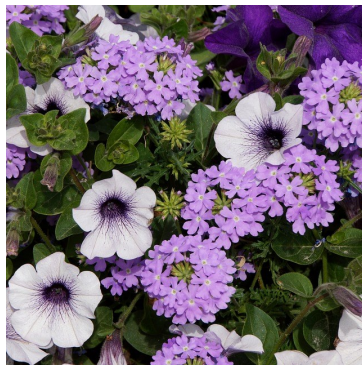
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## To Ponder:

**Spring is a tough act to follow.  
That's why God created June.**  
Al Bernstein

Summer time, as in any season of life,  
can bring with it both joyful and painful memories.  
Summer reminds us of friends and family no longer with us  
on this side of eternity.  
Summer prompts us to be available and present  
to a brief passing season,  
one which offers easy laughter among neighbors  
on summer days, and  
veggies ripe in the garden ready for picking.  
Summer holds a stop sign to our busy schedules,  
giving us permission to relax, pause and reflect.  
Summer is an old friend we long to catch up with,  
knowing she's only in town for a short time.  
If we don't plan to enjoy her visit, she will have flown  
South with birds and butterflies, leaving us sad for  
missing her beautiful presence and easy going ways.  
If summer could speak she'd alert us  
with her smile and direct gaze  
to the preciousness of each moment.

Author Unknown



## Reading: Psalm 65

Nan Merrill *Psalms for Praying*

Praise belongs to You, O Indwelling Beloved.  
You visited the earth and slaked our thirst,  
Offering Living Streams of water;  
You fed the hungry,  
and taught of Love's way.

You watered hardened souls,  
Filled with stone and weeds,  
softening them with kindness.  
You crowned your years with abandonment,  
inviting all to eternal life.

In the desert flowers come forth,  
the pastures flourish with fruit and grain;  
Creation's diversity is glorious!  
May all people honor these gifts  
with joyful song, while walking  
the path of Love.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...