

## Wednesday - March 22

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.*

*Psalm 96:11-12 (NIV)*

### My Father's Altar

My father was born in 1913 and grew up working on a farm. After he became a family physician and started a family, he put his family to work in growing dahlias, vegetables, collecting honey from beehives, tending apple and pear trees, and taking long Sunday afternoon walks in the woods. Looking back we didn't always appreciate those times involving nature. But he was patient, showing us by example how to not only appreciate nature but to enjoy, respect and care for it.

On mountain walks in Vermont, he taught us how to hear the earth sounds of the wind, the humming of insects and the songs of birds. One of the greatest pleasures was sitting quietly in the grass and just experiencing nature. It made everything, even the simple act of pumping and drinking water from a well, holy.

In raising my own family, I remembered those wonderful times of communing with nature. I took them on many walks in the woods helping them hear the beautiful sounds of nature that God gave us to enjoy and share. My gardens were not as lavish as my dad's. Today, when I hear frogs croaking late at night or the beautiful songs of birds at dawn, I remember, and my spirit begins to worship God at my father's altar.

Nancy

**Prayer:** Creator of heaven and earth, we join all the earth in praising Your name. Thank you for the beautiful altar of nature that helps us experience You in new ways. Amen.