

Saturday - March 25

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 husband and I started the new year with a stay at the Inn at Honey Run. This boutique resort is located in the heart of Ohio's Amish Country. It was our first stay at the inn. The Inn at Honey Run has several places you can stay including a cabin, a traditional inn room and the most interesting to me was the honeycomb rooms that are built into the earth and surrounded by stone. These handful of rooms all have views of beautiful rolling hills and nature.

Additional amenities on the property include bee keeping, a flock of sheep, birding and bird watching, a garden, a clowder of cats, an open air art museum and many walking trails including a Haiku trail. On New Year's day after breakfast, feeding the sheep and staying away from the cats, since I am allergic, I convinced my husband to walk the Haiku trail. He was not as enthusiastic as I was to walk the trails to view the open air art in the woods and to walk the Haiku trail. In his defense it was cold that day and the trails were really muddy.

The opportunity to view art and read Haiku was intriguing to me. I remembered in middle school when we wrote Haiku for English class. Haiku is a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five. The brief poems are designed to call attention to the senses experienced in one's surroundings. I was excited as we walked the trail and came upon our first large mossy boulder with a Haiku poem:

early light
pulling fog
from the lake

We kept walking the trail, reading the Haiku poems on the boulders and looking at the open air art. As we kept walking, my senses were filled with the beauty that God has given us in nature. The trees, the fog, the chill in the air, the muddy earth at my feet and the light rain that was falling on my face. I could feel God's peace come and rest upon me that day. It was almost too much take in!

As 2023 continues, I crave for many more opportunities to be in nature, read poetry, view beautiful art and to have God's spirit pass through me.

Karen

Prayer: Oh God of Creation, we stand in awe of the beauty of the earth You created. Help us care for the earth as You care for us. Thank you for the living things around us and the beautiful plants and trees that populate the earth. Thank you for the blessing of nature and may the earth continue to thrive under Your care. Amen.

Song to listen to today: *Rest On Us*- Elle Limebear

