

Wednesday - March 8

*...in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures
forevermore.*

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4 (ESV)

Joy That Can Take Our Breath Away

January 22: our first sizeable snowfall. I drove to Delaware to bring Phyllis Vesey to worship. Snow had turned the trees white, the ground glistened, the roads were covered. The world was transformed by the muffling of sounds, and lives moving slower. Joy bubbled up in me. Jesus was present. I had to blink tears away. I understood the Psalmist: "In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Maybe you've experienced the joy of the risen Christ being close. In nature. With your family. When you're understood. Reading a book. Seeing a play or a movie. Helping someone. Being helped. God finds so many ways to overwhelm us with joy that it can take our breath away. Like Paul we'll sing out, "Rejoice and again I say rejoice."

To experience Christ alive is to find that in all places, persons, and things. We may become more alive by his life, and in being made more alive, brave, strong and beautiful, we may be sure the joy Jesus promised is present. Even though more often than not our eyes are kept from recognizing it because we're running too fast and there's too much noise in our lives.

Dave

Prayer: Surprising God, help me meet the risen Christ in my daily life and be so caught by His splendor that I will experience the breathtaking joy You have for me. Amen.