

Psalm 8 (NIV84)

1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
4 what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?
5 You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
6 You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:
7 all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field,
8 the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.
9 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The devotion below reflects a time when church attendance was a normal, weekly practice for families. We recall those days ourselves. It seems so long ago that we gathered in our churches for Sunday worship. While we don't currently have the freedom and opportunity to get together on a Sunday for worship, let's not allow a week to pass without taking the opportunities available to us to "gather" for worship.

Setting time aside each week for formal worship, whether that be in small gathering in person, or a large "virtual gathering" online, we need time in God's word to feed our faith. God's word is more precious to us than the sun that shines on us or the air that we breathe. Enjoy the beauty of God's creation this summer, but don't let a week go by without taking time to worship our gracious God who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases.

Confidently looking to Jesus with you,
Pastor Golm

June 3

Put a "Beautiful Savior into a "Beautiful Summer"

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. psalm 19:1

Summer is the time of vacations, the time for trips into the great outdoors.

As we make our travel plans, perhaps we can learn a valuable lesson from the following little story. A family was on its way to a Sunday outing in the mountains. It was midmorning when they drove by a church. Worshippers, dressed in their Sunday best, were seen gathered at the front entrance.

From the back seat of the car came the voice of five-year-old Karen: "Daddy, aren't we going to church today?" In the front seat, both father and mother exchanged embarrassed glances. Since the question had been addressed to him, the father felt obliged to answer.

"We can worship God in the mountains", was his short reply. There was a brief moment of silence. Then from the back seat came the sage observation of which only a five-year-old is capable: "But we won't, Daddy, will we?"

The father had sought refuge behind an evasion all too popular today, even among church-members. It is true that our Lord can be worshipped in the heights; he can be worshipped in the plains, in the valleys, and along a thousand streams. But in her five short years Karen had learned that, while God can be worshipped from hills or dales or mountaintops, he usually isn't.

It will call for a conscious effort on our part to include God in our vacation plans. The majestic mountains may tell us of his might, the gorgeous beauty of a summer landscape may tell us of his wisdom, but only the Gospel of the Savior's sweet mercy can tell us of God's love. And it is this love that we are to recall and celebrate in conscious acts of Christian worship-not only in the hushed silence of the sanctuary, but also in God's great out-of-doors. On mountaintops, in plains and valleys, beside the bubbling brooks, the Christian heart can sing:

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing. . .

Oh, come, let us worship the Lord!

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)