

GREENFAITH ECO REFLECTION: St. Michael & All Angels  
Ann Hargraves

I promised a reflection for the GreenFaith group. I think of myself as pretty well connected to the ecology of my life. Many of you know me well enough to know I love to share. So why have I been so reticent in creating this post? Because when I thought about sitting down to write it out with clarity, I thought, "Oh God, please help me."

Here goes.

I love taking photos with my iPhone! I'm not a photographer or interested in the whole 'selfie' thing but I love trying to capture the natural beauty of my environment as I encounter it in walking through the days of my life. And the camera on the iPhone makes it sooooo easy.

I remember the very first time I used my phone camera. It was a late Spring day. I had returned home from work or a meeting at St. Michael's. I climbed up the stairs towards the large, pink dogwood in full, glorious bloom that stood beside my front door. It was a breathtaking sight. Thrilled and awestruck like Peter with Jesus at the top of the mountain at the Transfiguration, I wanted to capture, keep, contain the moment. I usually attempted to do this in one of two ways: (1) I holler for my family to come and witness it, too. And you know they just love this, right? They love that I expand and enrich their world with these special 'sharings' and come running with their "oohs" and "aaahhs" when I point or say "Look!" or, (2) most often and more successfully, I would stop to take a quiet moment and breathe it all in – I stand there and inhale noticing details and emotion.

I whispered a prayer of gratitude for the moment, for the beauty, for the breath. At that moment, filled up with gratitude of the loveliness, a thought occurred to me "Hey, you have a camera on your phone!" I fumbled around and found it. I took my first iPhone photo! The first ones were wide shots of the whole tree in my attempts to capture the vast expanse of pinkness at my front door. When I checked the 'proofs' I thought something did not quite translate. However the photos on the camera were of very good quality. Could I capture the detail and elegant design of a few blossoms in close ups? Oh my gosh, yes! Thank you, God. Thank you for the beautiful blossoms, tree, camera and photo!

I was hooked from then on. The camera on the iPhone made my shots look GOOD. I learned a little more about focus and light and I live in Portland. It is beautiful here. The climate is great for flowers, grass and green trees. The residents here love their yards, planters, gardens and parks. Heck, even the highway medians have roses planted in them!

This is heaven to me, a person who spent her young life in the desert basin of West Texas where the cactus did not even bloom (too sunny, too dry and too hot). My mother, bless her heart, did her very best to grow four o'clocks and morning glories in our small, backyard garden. I remember those flowers and how they made me feel and how I liked looking at them.

Now I share the beauty and wonder of the flora in my world through facebook. They are prayers of worship for Creation and gratitude to the Holy One.

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