

Generosity 2021

Cary Presbyterian Church

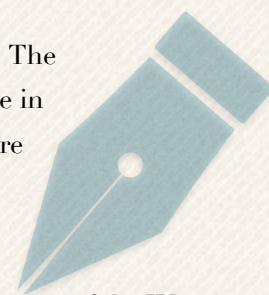
Scripture

- Psa. 65:9* *You visit the earth and water it,*
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
- 10 *You water its furrows abundantly;*
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
- 11 *You crown the year with your bounty;*
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
- 12 *The pastures of the wilderness overflow,*
the hills gird themselves with joy;
- 13 *the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,*
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy:

Devotion

Psalm 65 is a favorite. It occurs on a regular basis in the liturgy of the hours (a schedule of daily prayers which I keep). These verses, in

particular, are important to me. The Psalm points to God's great care in making the earth fruitful. We are surrounded by abundance.



It has been a dry Summer in this year with much of the West in severe heat & drought conditions. But as I write this devotion, I can hear the rain pelling the roof of my home. I give thanks for a dry place to write, and I give thanks for the water which is falling and soothing the parched earth, "softening it with showers and blessing its growth."

Typical of a Psalm which is a *creation hymn*, the earth is anthropomorphized, "the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy." I have seen hills, meadows, and valleys like these, and I imagine that you have too. In the light of God's great care and providence it is the only faithful thing to do to put on your finest, and join in the hymn of praise to God.

Prayer

Lord, in the beginning you placed us in the garden of your great creation and you commissioned us to "till and keep" all that you had made and given into our care. Help us, Lord, as we seek to be good stewards of the earth so that the pastures, hills, meadows, and valleys never fall silent in joyfully singing of your love. Amen.