

So Much Is in Bud

April is the month that buds on trees and bushes begin to swell and open. We see, as though for the first time, those tiny promises of life that held firm on wind-buffed branches through the snowy winter.

We believe in buds. That is, after all, what the mystery of Easter is all about. It takes faith and hope in our periods of cold and darkness to even *imagine* signs of promise and to anticipate new life. Yet there is a power beyond us and within us that hangs on. A power that responds to light and warmth as the world turns, a power that swells and opens with deep color and bright fragrance. A power that is grace.

“So Much Is In Bud” (*shortened*) Denise Levertov

We have only begun
to imagine the fullness of life.

How can desire fail?
-we have only begun

to imagine justice and mercy,
only begun to envision

how it will be
to live as siblings with beast
and flower...

We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we
would join
our solitudes in the
communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must
complete its gesture,

so much is in bud.

Reflection

1. Have you been through a “winter” in your soul? What is “in bud” in your life?
2. With a group, reflect on signs of swelling buds in the world—better awarenesses, active efforts and movements, signs of change, signs of justice, compassion and love. Do the same for Church.
3. Pray with: We have only begun to know/ the power that is in us...
So much is unfolding, so much is in bud.

Email ideas, responses to: mbrownop@aol.com

Scroll down for ideas for books and music.

BOOKS AND MUSIC
These are available in the Retreat Center Bookstore

Lost in Wonder: Discovering the Spiritual Art of Attentiveness

Esther de Waal, 2003, 179 pages.

*“To take the time to be apart...is not a luxury, it is essential.
the gift of space for myself seems so simple, and in a way it is;
but it is also surprisingly difficult to do without some form
of external encouragement. And that is the very simple
purpose of this book” –Esther de Waal*

From the back cover:

Many aspects of modern life can distract us: busyness, boredom, stress, lethargy, lack of direction. Yet Christ’s invitation to each of us is “Come and *see*.” Responding to this call, Lost in wonder clears and refreshes our inner vision, teaching us again how to use those gifts we may have come to take for granted or forgotten we had: sight, sound, silence, awareness, mystery, wonder.

A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life’s Purpose

Eckhart Tolle, 2005. 309 pages.

If you are an Oprah fan you may have been participating in a course series she set up in which she and Eckhart Tolle dialog on his new book, A New Earth.

From the back cover:

With his bestselling spiritual guide The Power of Now, Eckhart Tolle inspired millions of readers to discover the freedom and joy of a life lived “in the now.” In A New Earth, Tolle expands on these powerful ideas to show how transcending our ego-based state of consciousness is not only essential to personal happiness, but also the key to ending conflict and suffering throughout the world. Tolle describes how our attachment to the ego creates the dysfunction that leads to anger, jealousy, and unhappiness, and shows readers ho to awaken to a new state of consciousness and follow the path to a truly fulfilling existence. This is a profoundly spiritual manifesto for a better way of life—and for building a better world.