

14th April 2020

Rainbows

**“O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.”**

George Matheson, O Love that wilt not let me go.

On my “once a day for exercise” walk recently, I was encouraged to see so many rainbows in people’s windows – big ones and small ones; well-drawn ones and crooked ones; some with messages and others with flowers and animals. But they all mattered, to the children who’d made them, the families in their homes and the passersby.

Many years ago, when I worked in one of the most deprived housing areas of Edinburgh, I remember a colleague, Kathy Galloway, telling of story of a conversation she’d overheard between two kids. “Did ye see yon rainbow.” “Ah did, and it was *massive*.” “Aye, an’ it went a’ the way from your bit tae ma bit.”

All the way from “your bit tae ma bit,” your house to my house, your street to my street, your neighbourhood to my neighbourhood. A massive rainbow, joining two kids together, and much more besides ...

We can take lots of messages from rainbows: sunshine after a storm; hope following a disaster; the promise of George Matheson’s ‘tearless morn’; maybe even a pot of gold at each end. But today the lesson I take is that every rainbow in every window links me with the people inside. Each one goes from “their bit tae ma bit”, creating a massive rainbow, which, thank God, is joining us all together.

A prayer for today

*Loving God, I trace my rainbow through the rain ... And do I find hope in you?
I'm not so sure. But, if the massive rainbow links me in love with someone else,
that'll be enough for now. Thank you. Amen*

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