

We Are Called to Persistent Joy

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Because sun breaks through oak limbs
At daybreak, and the center of our galaxy
Rests in the crook of two branches.

Because frowns are fleeting
But laughter lines last -- humor
Making itself present in times of darkness too.

Because there are more shades
Of green in landscape than writing
Systems or characters for our thoughts.

Because of writing systems
And characters for our thoughts we
Can say: *It is you whom I love. You who loves me.*

Because running water and bird song
Harmonize as if sheet music had been shared,
Rehearsals had been held.

Because balloons, bubbles and
Birthday cake arrive at
pediatric hospital beds.

Because of swing sets, symphonies
And stargazing. Because of hugs,
Hand holding and high-fives.

Because blooms invite bees,
Butterflies taste with their feet and
Otters juggle rocks.

Because nature births glee in every moment
Of ever. Because exuberance is the Mother
Tongue for the wonders of this world.

We must insist upon joy.

We must demand our eyes see and
Hearts feel the divine in delight.

Because resilience relies upon it.
Creation requires it.

Life lingers and luxuriates in joy.
So too must we.