

God, Life, and Everything
"Here Comes the Sun"

I don't care if it is Lent. This afternoon (Monday) was so gorgeous that I was feeling distinctly Easter-y.

Or at least Springy.

I heard birds this morning.

I went to the ice rink to skate, and when came back outside, I actually felt warmer!

I walked the dog, and he didn't rush back in as if some monster were chasing him.

I went to the grocery store and some people there were had no coats on.

I saw a house fly!

To top it all off, as I drove about town doing my errands, I had to wear sunglasses. These are the definitive signs that Spring is on its way, and the fact that there's still 18 inches of snow on the ground is irrelevant. We have reached the tipping point, and from this point on, we don't have to merely dream about Spring, we can start looking for it.

I've said this over and over. I love Winter. I didn't even mind on Sunday when it inexplicably began snowing while I was out on a walk.

But the sunny warmth of this day lifted up my heart more than I would have supposed. It even made me forget about that atrocity known as the time change. "Spring Forward," my foot. I guess I'm ready for the new season to spread its warm goodness across the land. After all, as much as I love Winter, I love Spring, too.

I love that birds return, buds sprout, and trees become green once again. I love the waking from dormancy and the promise of new life.

This promise reminds me of the resurrection that we anticipate in just a few weeks. It follows a fallow period which may seem too long for many - but when it comes, all is forgiven, all is forgotten. All that's left is the joy of the moment.

Of course, it is not yet Spring, just as it's not yet Easter. There's still some Winter weather to get through. There are still four weeks of Lent left (only two weeks of Winter!), so we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves.

But it's close!

And with this hint of Spring, this foretaste of the vernal banquet, I get a little giddy.

So, as the warmer days creep up on us, enjoy them! Let them lift up your heart and make you glad to be alive. There will always be time to lament the weather - you just know that some time in August, people are going to be complaining about how hot it is.

But for now, just enjoy.

Life is meant to be a joy, after all. And on days like today, it all seems possible.