

Heaven Is Now

July brings to Northern Wisconsin the fullness of God’s gift of beauty in the greens of trees, the roadside wild flowers, and the fields of corn and other crops showing the promise of another ripe harvest.

Reflections of life and what it is meant to be and the future perfection longed for in the promise of eternal life often come to mind.

What is this “heaven” that we each dream about and vision in our own way? An interesting insight came to me as I was reading Kathleen Norris’ book, *Amazing Grace*.

She presented an idea of heaven in this way,

“My favorite definition of heaven comes from a Benedictine sister, who told me that as her mother lay dying in a hospital bed she had ventured to reassure her by saying, ‘In heaven, everyone we love is there.’ The older woman had replied, ‘No, in heaven I will love everyone who’s there.’”

What a challenge this presents as we remember that heaven is now. That as Jesus told us, the reign of God is already here. Can I

say today, “I love everyone who is here sharing this time and space with me on earth?”

The disciples of Jesus must have had an “Aha”

Moment of their own when they heard Jesus say, “But I say to you love your enemy, do good to those who persecute you.” We still today are challenged to allow this message to be our own aha moment. In our world torn by violence, misunderstandings, and hatreds, we can be the example of what life in heaven will be as we truly love every one with us now.

How avid am I for heaven which begins, here, now, and demands a response and change in my life?

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