

Reflection for Friday 7th Week of Easter 2020

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays
Today the church draws breath at last and sings
as every flame becomes a Tongue of praise.
This is the feast of fire, air, and water
poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.
The earth herself awakens to her maker
and is translated out of death to birth.
The right words come today in their right order
and every word spells freedom and release.
Today the gospel crosses every border,
all tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace.
Today the lost are found in His translation,
whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation. (Pentecost Malcolm Guite)

"God's Grandeur," Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844–1889)

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil,
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell; the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went,
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.*

When the spirit comes

*Before the Spirit came, you were just words on a page,
black on white and yellowed with age.
Simply a story of long ago,
of a man who had so much love to show;
who healed the sick and cured the lame;
took our guilt and bore our shame.
It sounded so good, but it just couldn't last.
It was not for today but locked in the past.
. Until the Spirit came.*

*Now the Spirit has come, you are here at my side,
larger than life and ready to guide;
making real to me all that you said
and doing through me the things that I read.
I am the glove that your hand has filled;
I am the cup into which you have spilled
all the love and the power which you promised would come,
right now in the present and for everyone.
. Since the Spirit came.*