

Perhaps as you are watching the weather this month you will see a rainbow, a special sign that God is watching over His earth. He is in control, in the words of a children's song...

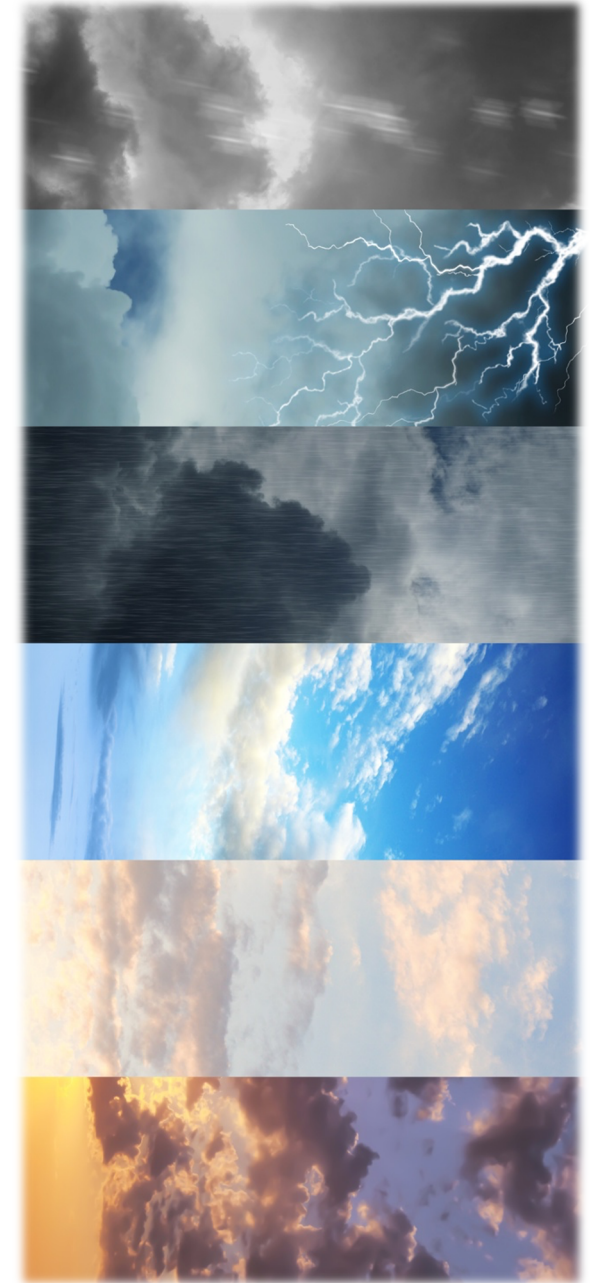
Whenever you see a rainbow,
Whenever you see a rainbow,
Whenever you see a rainbow,
Remember God is love.

A Blessing

May the creator God,
Who controls all aspects of the weather,
bless you with the warmth of His love,
sustain you with the water of life,
bubbling up within you,
and empower you to live for Him daily,
by the wind of His Spirit.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
who calmed the storm on Galilee,
and reigns in heaven now.
Amen.

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Seasons

The 15th of July is St Swithun's day. Tradition tells us that if it rains on that day it will continue to rain for 40 days, but if it is fine it will stay fine for 40 days. So, you may like to watch the weather this month and see whether that is true.

For many of us the weather is a convenient topic of conversation. Sometimes we get 4 seasons in one day!

A Prayer For Seasonable Weather

(1928 Prayer Book)

Let us pray for seasonable weather.

The Lord will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him.

He will also hear their cry and will help them.

O God, Heavenly Father, Who by Thy son Jesus Christ hast promised to them that seek first Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness, all things necessary to their bodily sustenance: send us, we beseech Thee, such seasonable weather that we may receive the fruits of the earth to our comfort, and to Thy honour, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The fact that we cannot control the weather, perhaps encourages us to look away from ourselves and to acknowledge our creator. The ancient canticle, the Benedicite includes the following words:

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord.
Praise Him and magnify Him for ever!
O ye showers and dew, bless ye the Lord.
O ye winds of God, bless ye the Lord.
O ye frost and cold, bless ye the Lord.
O ye ice and snow, bless ye the Lord.
O ye lightning and clouds, bless ye the Lord.
Praise him and magnify him for ever.

The psalmist also was aware of the weather

Psalm 147

*Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving,
Make music to our God upon the lyre.
Who covers the heaven with clouds
And prepares rain for the earth.
Who makes grass to grow upon the mountains
And green plants to serve our needs.
He gives snow like wool
And scatters the hoar frost like ashes.
He casts down His hailstones like morsels
of bread,
Who can endure His frost?
He sends forth His word and melts them.
He blows with His wind and the waters flow.
Alleluia.*

I wonder if you are ever frightened by the weather? Perhaps that depends on your experience, lightning strikes or maybe sunburn if you were somewhere very hot.

In the gospels we read of a scary experience Jesus's disciples had.

Luke chapter 8

One day Jesus got into a boat with His disciples. As they were sailing Jesus fell asleep. Suddenly a strong wind blew down on the lake and the boat began to fill with water, so that they were all in great danger. The disciples woke Jesus up, saying "Master, we are about to die!" Jesus got up and gave an order to the wind and the stormy water. They died down and there was a great calm. Then He said to the disciples, "Where is your faith?" They were amazed and afraid and said, "Who is this man? He gives orders to the winds and waves and they obey Him!"

Being in control of the weather is truly awesome.

Earlier in the Bible - Genesis chapters 7, 8 and 9 - we can read the story of Noah and the flood, rain for 40 days.... but at the end of the story we read of a rainbow, a sign of God's love for His creation and hope for the future.