

A Spring Reflection from Julia Townsend, Martha Associates Director

About two weeks ago, I enjoyed an old episode of “Touched by an Angel”, a favorite series of mine which ran from September 1994 to April 2003. I have all nine seasons and, every now and then, I watch an episode or two. There was a quote in that last episode that has resurfaced in my mind over the past two weeks: **“To be alive in such an age”**. I decided to look it up, and discovered it is from a famous poet, Walt Whitman. The whole quote reads like this:



To be alive in such an age, when miracles are everywhere and every inch of common air throbs a tremendous prophecy, of greater marvels yet to be.

~ Walt Whitman

As I was pondering the quote, I wondered how it connected with the times we are currently living in. It is Spring of 2020, the world is battling an unseen enemy, a virus, which has infected our world and unleashed a Pandemic! We must stay at home, we cannot gather or hug, or chat over a good cup of hot tea!! We now wear masks out in public, if we go out at all, such as to the grocery store. Going for a walk is like entering a hamster maze, crisscrossing the streets so as not to pass each other! We attend Mass online or on TV! It has been a very challenging and painful time for all of us. Add to that the unthinkable events which occurred in our beautiful province of Nova Scotia recently, it has been unbearable! **“To be alive in such an age.....”**



“When miracles are everywhere.....” And yet, the miracles are everywhere! The sun has continued to rise, the little crocuses are poking happily up from the ground to spread color and encourage smiles! People are waving to each other across the streets as they walk, acknowledging that **“common throb”** of what we are all feeling! *Continued on the next page.*

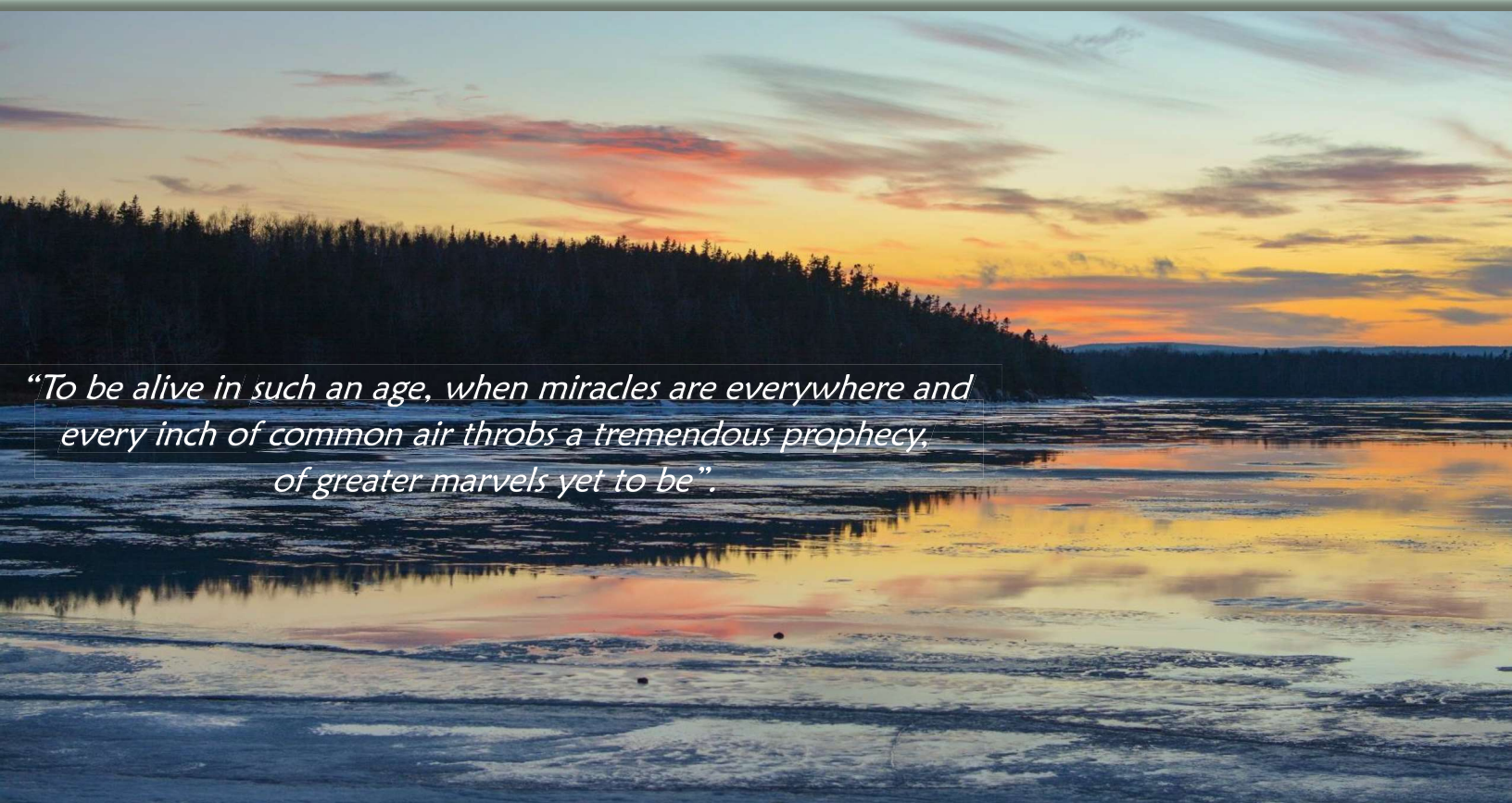
People caring for people, making phone calls or using social media to check in on each other, ensuring everyone has what they need; musical kitchen parties online to lift our spirits for a time; spring flowers and rainbows made by children, candles and flags, proudly hung in windows, a hopeful sign of brighter days ahead; Women and Men on the front lines caring for our health and essential needs in life; Political and Spiritual Leaders guiding us and supporting us each day, providing human faces of calm and strength to help us move forward!

And everywhere, prayer.... time for personal prayer and reflection, and time for global prayer all around our world! Even Mother Earth has had a reprieve from the usual insults we unleash on her!**”to be alive in such an age, where miracles are everywhere”**.

The very real problems of our world still exist and will be there to be worked on after this pandemic and time of grief has passed. I believe it would be **“tremendous prophecy”** to recall how we came together to work for the common good of all, to remember that we are more than Canadian, American, British, etc. We are all global citizens!

And, in the middle of it all, is our God! God’s love is reaching out to us all, allowing us the freedom to cry, while letting us know we are not alone. The love and care we show to each other is God’s way of passing on light, love, hope and peace. That is an “infection” we all want! It is the source of **“greater marvels yet to be”**.

By Julia Townsend, Martha Associates Director



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