

MONDAY, MAY 15

**"Be Joyful Though  
You Have  
Considered All the  
Facts"**

On Monday, Lynn gives her usual weather report: "May may have come in like February," but it is going out with lilacs. And she is claiming joy and one piece of Kentucky, her old friend, Wendell Berry, who advises that we "Be Joyful Though You Have Considered All the Facts." Find the poem in Monday's post.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

**Beyond God the  
Mother**

On Wednesday, Uncle Dee reflects on Mother's Day, "my least favorite creation of Hallmark." Dee's dissent can be traced to the fact that he lost his own mother before he was five, though he and his siblings were mothered by his Aunt Dee, for whom he was named. From this he gets somehow to language about God, which isn't solved by calling God mother any more than it's finished by calling God father. But we have to call God something personal, because "relationship is all," however messy. Say, let's dance!

**One and At The  
Same Time**

Speaking of which . . . can we dance when the world is aching? Also on Wednesday, Julie has more to say about claiming joy. It's not just dancing down the street, singing "I've got that joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart." Still, joy must be deep if we are to hold "at once both sorrow and joy"—sorrow for the world in pain and danger and joy because God has already transformed us.

Will Wednesday never end. So Dee's late; we're used to that; but can Gerald be early? (Rick's theory is that all are energized by Norwegian Independence Day.)

**Fear not?**

Also on Wednesday, Gerald writes about fear—growing up with the Cuban missile crisis, the Birmingham bombings (in his own backyard), the assassination of a president, the Vietnam War. What did it mean, this admonition, "Fear not"? Originally, it meant for him, "Suck it up! Will yourself not to be afraid." Of course, we can't do that any more than we can stop thinking about elephants. So, can we jump into fear, realizing that it "is not the enemy of faith" but its partner? Faithful people can be afraid.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

**Fifteen Propositions  
Reduced to Twelve**

On Friday, Rick offers twelve propositions, ways to think about grace, about joy, and about happiness. About the last he says: "Happiness is not Paris. It is not fine wine. It is not beauty. It is not next year in Jerusalem." It is here, it is now, it is simple. So, we don't get happy by being complex—or pretending we are. Or by being restless. Our hearts will only be happy when they are rest-filled; they will only be rest-filled, when they rest.