

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

**“SMALL MIRACLES”**

**By Kim Sheard**

*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.* ~Isaiah 64:1-3 (NRSV)

Like many people this year, my husband and I planted our first garden. During the COVID shutdown, we had much more leisure time than usual and needed a project to keep our minds and hands occupied. Not all of our crop prospered (our ears of corn topped out at less than three inches long!), but the garden held our interest for months and made us enthusiastic to try to do better next year.

In early June, I planted two different varieties of nasturtiums, annuals that bloom in a variety of colors. These plants thrive in poor soil, with little water and care. They also help draw aphids away from other plants. I planted several rows of them in early June, and their stalks and leaves soon grew and grew. Then, one by one, they died. And no, I didn't see any aphids that might have eaten them. I don't know why they died. I wound up planting beans and lettuce where the nasturtiums had been.

Imagine my surprise when, in early September, a new nasturtium plant appeared behind the beans, a small miracle to amaze me during a difficult time.

The prophet Isaiah had heard many stories of “mountain-quaking,” “nation-trembling” miracles! And God is certainly capable of those. Now, I doubt He will suddenly make the coronavirus disappear before we wake up tomorrow—He doesn't usually work that way—but we can watch for His small miracles, like a friend calling when you most need her, a story on the radio that really hits home, a nasturtium sprouting 3 months after being planted. We should watch for them, and be blessed by them!

*Thought for Today: Be blessed by small miracles.*

Prayer: God, thank you for miracles big and small. Help us to notice them and recognize your blessings. Amen.