



We are coming up on the Sunday when, in the old days, church vestments changed from penitential purple to “lets-take-a-break-in Lent” rose. It was a time to be soft and simple before the days to come. And, I have two stories to share.

Wordsworth was a serious and cerebral poet who lived through dark times. He had an affair with a young French woman during the Revolution in 1792. A daughter, Caroline, was born. Because of wars, he didn't meet Caroline until she was 9. They took a walk on the beach at Calais on “a beauteous evening, calm and free.” It was a moment of cosmic majesty for the poet. But for Caroline it was all simply being part of nature, of God being with her in an ordinary

way. Wordsworth was deeply impressed and wrote; *If thou appear untouched by solemn thought, / Thy nature is not therefore less divine.*

Sometimes it is good to remain untouched by solemn thought in order to enter more completely into the divine experience that surrounds us.

Fast forward from 1802 Calais to 2010 Sabbathday Lake, Maine. Also a beautiful day at the Shaker Village. The Meeting House was full as personal and societal woes were being shared. Suddenly a young Shaker across from me stood up and said “Why all these words? We all know love is the cure!” Then in a pure voice she led us in a simple Shaker Hymn;

Love is little, love is low / Love will make my spirit grow / Grow in peace, grow in light / Love will do the thing that's right.

In these spring days of the rose let us put aside solemn thought and be open to what is little and low, confident that love will always enable us to do the thing that's right!

Brother Toby