



# REFLECTIONS

November 18, 2012

**He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all — how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?**

*Romans 8:32*

## Blessings Overlooked

*Gracious and loving God, we come to you this day in thanksgiving for the many blessings of this life. We come with thanks for the love you give us, the abundances we enjoy, and the grace we have received. But in our prayers we come to you in thanks for the many blessings overlooked as we go about our daily lives.*

*We give you thanks for the mysteries of nature we overlook and all the beauties that accompany it. Trees stand tall in stately being, their leaves in colorful splendor. But we overlook that the leaves nourish the trees and they offer shelter from elements that could harm other living things. Mountains and hillsides provide majestic backdrops to meadows, deserts, and sea sides, but we overlook their slopes as part of nature's system that channels life giving resources throughout the lands.*

*We are blessed by the serenity of seas, lakes, rivers, and streams. But often take for granted the foods produced within them, the inviting pleasure we take in their coolness, and the fascination we find in their depths.*

*The blue skies, sun's beams, stars' twinkles, and moon's glow are all blessings easily taken for granted. And there are the blessings in the way you made us. We overlook the blessing of sight that allows us to watch children smile, deer run, and birds fly; and for the eyes of our hearts that let us see your presence in our lives.*

*We listen as music plays, words resonate, nature sings, and people laugh. And by touch the substance of the world around us is felt to tell us softness is different than firm, and hot is different than cold.*

*We are blessed by companions you placed alongside us to share our walk through life. And love. We are blessed by the warmth it brings us, the comfort it gives us, and the joy from sharing it. Love is the blessing that makes us most like you, dear Lord. And it is in love for us that you have blessed us with all things, especially the blessing of your Son.*

*He is the blessing that must never be overlooked. Through his sacrifice we are blessed with eternal life. And for this and all the many other blessings, Gracious God, we live forever in humble thanksgiving.*

*Amen*

*You are the light of the world,*

*Richard +*

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