



## February 2019 Reflection: Harbingers of Spring

My daughter Dianna and I have a game we play where in the dead of winter, we begin the search for ‘harbingers of spring’. From an early age, I taught her that a harbinger is something that signals something is coming. It’s a sign, a signal, and an announcement of sorts that newness is on its way.

So since she was a tiny girl, she and I would play this game, seeking out signs and signals that spring was coming. In January and February, the signs were few and far between but still we looked. I found that the simple act of looking became a way to remind ourselves that the grey skies and the cold weather would eventually end. Seeking our ‘harbingers of spring’ became a way for us to remain hopeful of what was to on its way.

By the end of February, she and I would really begin to see those harbingers of spring. Bulbs poking up from the ground, buds beginning to form on tree branches, a slight increase in the bird sounds in our backyard....all harbingers of spring that we would gleefully celebrate together. By the time we headed into March, everywhere we went would inspire us to call out those signs, cherry trees starting to blossom, early daffodils coming up and showing their vibrant yellowness, the daylight lasting longer and longer each day. We would yell them out excitedly to each other and our words would seemingly amplify the celebration of newness coming into the world.

As I reflect on that joyous activity that my daughter and I continue to share, I realize that what we were doing was a spiritual practice of sorts. We were seeking out that which pointed to newness during times of darkness. We were looking for signs of beginnings in the midst of endings. By the simple act of searching for a fierce green sprout of a bulb poking through the muddy soil, we were seeking out hope.

My wish for my daughter (and I guess for myself) is to continue to seek out those harbingers of newness and life in the midst of all darkness and endings and so I offer this prayer...

O Holy One, may we open our eyes to be surprised by the newness you bring into our world and our lives. May we strain our eyes and our hearts to find those tender shoots of life poking into our world. May we celebrate with joy and glee when we see you revealed through the darkness. May we in turn be the harbingers of newness and spring in the lives of others. Amen

Rev Marci