

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Memorial Day, I traveled to Lanesboro, Minnesota, to meet a longtime friend and her husband. On my return trip, I was driving back to Wisconsin on Hwy 16. Just outside of Houston, I saw the most beautiful rainbow that I have seen in a long time! It was a full bow, too! (See photo.)

The rainbow reminded me of God's covenant in Genesis 9. Here is a portion of that pericope.--

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:8-13, NRSV).

The first photo I selected to share with you, includes a full bow and a vehicle. The vehicle is heading toward the rainbow, and it looks like it will soon pass under/through the bow. The sky under the rainbow is lighter than the sky above. I do not know why this might be, but as a minister, rather than a scientist, it encouraged me to think of God's light shining forth from the rainbow on behalf of all of God's creation. It also encouraged me to think of God's light shining in the lives of those who will pass under/through the rainbow.

God's creation, as evidenced in the rainbow, stretches far beyond what we might ever imagine. How beautiful it is, too, as it once again proclaims its message that never again will God's wrath result in a flood that will destroy God's creatures!

But there is more to my story. As I traveled a few miles further, I realized that this was not one rainbow, but two! (See second photo. The second rainbow is to the left of the primary one. Can you see it?) I wondered...what does a double rainbow signify, but God's grace and love abounding more and more! Thanks be to God!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy