



## Looking Out My Window, May 6, 2022

In fifth century France, Bishop Mermetus instituted days of fasting and prayer to ward off a disaster. Subsequently in England those days were associated with the blessing of the fields at planting time. The Monday-Wednesday prior to Ascension Day now are rogation days in our calendar and the sixth Sunday of Easter is Rogation Sunday. The word “rogation” stems from the Latin *rogatio*, to ask.

This observance has been associated in America with rural life and agriculture. The propers in *The Book of Common Prayer* (pp. 207-208, 258-259, 930) widen the scope to include commerce, industry, the stewardship of creation. The rubrics allow flexibility regarding the time of observance to suit local situations.

We will observe Rogation Sunday on May 15th, one week early. (We’re fudging by one Sunday for reasons unique to our local schedule). Our worship will be outdoors and will include a procession at the offertory around the boundaries of the property and prayers and singing in procession. We will have a covered dish lunch outdoors afterwards. (Note the newsletter article for suggestions about what to bring.) If it rains, we will process indoors and dine in parish hall.

The prayers during the procession will focus on thankfulness for the abundance of the earth and on prayers for abundant harvest and the well being of the creation. Please dress informally with good walking shoes. If you cannot make the procession, feel free to remain at the place of worship.

In Holy Conversations, you expressed a desire to restore some liturgical/worship practices lost in recent years. It’s been quite some time since you observed Rogation Sunday. It’s a joyous and unique celebration, especially relevant given the challenges we face regarding climate and the environment.

God’s peace,

David

David W Perkins+, Interim Rector