

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**EVERY STEP AN ARRIVAL**

GRACE INVADING OUR WORLD

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 9:6-8

**FROM THE SERMON**

Natural things And spiritual,—who separates those two  
In art, in morals, or the social drift  
Tears up the bond of nature and brings death,  
Paints futile pictures, writes unreal verse,  
Leads vulgar days, deals ignorantly with men,  
Is wrong, in short, at all points ...

Without the spiritual, observe,  
The natural's impossible,— no form,  
No motion: without sensuous, spiritual  
Is inappreciable,— no beauty or power:  
And in this twofold sphere the twofold man  
Holds firmly by the natural, to reach  
The spiritual beyond it ...  
Some call the ideal,—better call the real,  
And certain to be called so presently  
When things shall have their names ...

The twofold manner, in and outwardly,  
And nothing in the world comes single to him,  
A mere itself,—cup, column, or candlestick,  
All patterns of what shall be in the Mount;  
The whole temporal show related royally,  
And built up to eternal significance  
Through the open arms of God. ‘There’s nothing great  
Nor small’, has said a poet of our day,  
Whose voice will ring beyond the curfew of eve  
And not be thrown out by the matin’s bell:  
And truly, I reiterate, nothing’s small!  
No lily-muffled hum of a summer-bee,  
But finds some coupling with the spinning stars;  
No pebble at your foot, but proves a sphere;  
No chaffinch, but implies the cherubim;  
And (glancing on my own thin, veined wrist),  
In such a little tremor of the blood  
The whole strong clamour of a vehement soul  
Doth utter itself distinct.

Earth’s crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God;  
But only he who sees, takes off his shoes,

The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries,  
And daub their natural faces unaware  
More and more from the first similitude.

Elizabeth Barret Browning, "Aurora Leigh"

## DEVOTIONAL FOR THIS SERIES

Through the remainder of the year, we will share a message series based on Eugene Peterson's devotional book *Every Step An Arrival*. In this series, we'll take the time to contemplate the truth of God—and enjoy the presence of God—in the small moments of our lives. Though it is not a requirement, we encourage you to pick up Peterson's book and follow along with your own 90-day devotional. We invite you to journey with us this fall, as we learn how to make every step an arrival.

If you would like to prepare for each sermon, we will be discussing:

- 11.03** Day 17: A Spiritual Skill That Can Renew Your Life
- 11.10** Day 19: Memorializing God's Work in Your Life
- 11.17** Day 28: Make Our Needs and Wants Known
- 11.24** Day 33: A Character That Counts
- 12.01** Day 60: God Became Human to Elevate Us
- 12.08** Day 84: God's Gracious Way of Invading Our World
- 12.15** Day 85: God's Coming Salvation
- 12.22** Day 90: The Offended Initiates Forgiveness