

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:11a

He has made everything beautiful in his time.

They say, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." My beholder was a 3rd-grade student. It has been a long week, and Friday had not come soon enough. So as he left for the bus, he said, "In the morning, you are beautiful. But in the afternoon, you look like you've had it. Love you."

Wearily, I sat at my desk and thought about the beauty. What did beauty look like inside to this child? Did he see my understanding when he forgot his homework? Did he feel healing from a hug after an accident on the playground? Did he see admiration when I gave extra points on an assignment for neatness and completed work? How good does he feel at receiving extra gold stars on his project? Perhaps, it was just physical beauty. I needed to make some changes quickly. I needed to show him that beauty was not just skin deep.

The following Monday morning, I made an all-out effort to look my best. I lavished my patience, knowledge, kindness, compassion, and understanding to my students. At the end of the day, he said again to me, "I had a great day, and you are beautiful. Love you." My plan had worked!! A touch of lipstick and a brush of a comb through my hair after lunch helped too.

Prayer: Lord, help us see ALL the beauty in our world and share it with others who seek beauty and its true meaning.

~ Submitted by Carole Guffey for the Ninth Reading of Lent