

Small Talk – June 25 2021
By Michael Small

What to do about the weather? In a time of obvious climate change throughout the world, the weather has been on the minds of many of us. It is not something one can control though it has an impact on our lives. Who would have believed that in Northern Minnesota there would be a number of + 90 days in June. I am thinking about my family in Oregon – high's in Gresham for this coming weekend are predicted to be, Saturday 105, Sunday 112, Monday 108, Tuesday 97. It will be a dry and explosive heat. These temperatures will be record breaking.

So, what can we do about the weather. Complain, rejoice, speak about it, take action to heal the earth? Long-term we must reduce greenhouse gases and reduce the use of fossil fuels, moving toward renewable energy. Recycle! Dare I say we also need to reduce the population of the earth and live more sustainably upon the earth into the future.

Now there is one predictable thing we do about the weather – we sing about it. Hundreds, maybe thousands of songs have been written about weather over the years. Listed below are the current top twenty weather related songs in descending order named by the weather folk at AccuWeather. (Don't know if I can forgive them for leaving out the first song that came to my mind when thinking about weather, *Blue Skies* – Ella Fitzgerald). 20. *Hurricane* - Bob Dylan, 19. *Fire And Rain* - James Taylor, 18. *Winter Wonderland* - Richard B. Smith, 17. *Let It Snow* - Sammy Cahn, 16. *Steal My Sunshine* – Len, 15. *Walkin' On The Sun* - Smash Mouth, 14. *Soak Up The Sun* - Sheryl Crow, 13. *You Are My Sunshine* - Jimmie Davis/Charles Mitchell, 12. *It Never Rains In Southern California* - Albert Hammond, 11. *I Can See Clearly (Now The Rain Is Gone)* – Jimmy Cliff, 10. *No Rain* – Blind Melon, 9. *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* - Israel "Iz" Kamakawiwo'ole, 8. *Umbrella* – Rihanna, 7. *It's Raining Men* - The Weather Girls, 6. *Singin' In The Rain* - Gene Kelly, 5. *Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head* - BJ Thomas, 4. *November Rain* - Guns N' Roses, 3. *Have You Ever Seen The Rain?* - Creedence Clearwater Revival, 2. *Thunder Rolls* - Garth Brooks, 1. *Lightning Crashes* – Live

What songs would you add to the above list, perhaps *The Bluest Skies are in Seattle* – Perry Como or *They Call the Wind Mariah* – Harve Presnell or *Blowin' In The Wind* by Bob Dylan. As I read through the top twenty songs, I am aware of a generational shift. I am going to need to search for some of the artists who unfamiliar to me. But this list indicates that all of us are thinking about and reacting to the power of the weather that shapes our lives and makes our days. Curious, many of the songs are about rainy days.

I think it is significant that even in the Bible there are many references to the weather. Allow me to share just a few. Jesus speaks, “*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for your persecutors. This will prove that you are children of God. For God makes the sun rise on bad and good alike; God's rain falls on the just and the unjust.*” (Matthew 5:44-46) After the flood of the world God speaks to Noah “*So long as the earth lasts, sowing and reaping, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.*”

(Genesis 8:22) Job reflects on life and God *“Keep in mind that God’s greatness exceeds our knowledge; God’s vastness is a mystery. Think of how God collects droplets of water; distills its mist into rain, which the skies spill onto the soil for the benefit of humankind.”* (Job 36:26-28) Finally Jesus shares with Nicodemus *“The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*¹

May raindrops fall on your head while you are singing in the rain. May you see, know, feel hope somewhere over the rainbow. And may we all see clearly so that we will be able to “love our enemies and pray for our persecutors. This will prove that you are children of God. For God makes the sun rise on bad and good alike; God’s rain falls on the just and the unjust.” And “Keep in mind that God’s greatness exceeds our knowledge”.

In spite of or because of the ever-changing weather, let us walk with gratitude in our hearts, ways, and thoughts, and may there always be song emerging from our lips.

In the spirit and agape love of Jesus, Michael

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¹ Biblical quotes from *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible*. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.