

The GARDEN of INTENTION

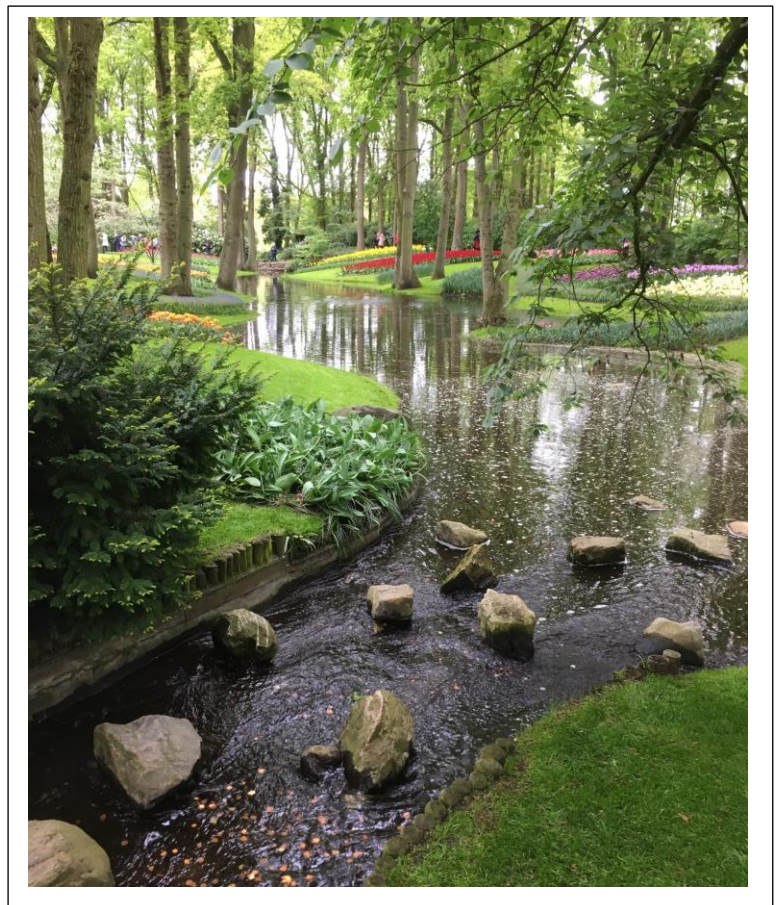
Remember a garden where you've been happy. Think about it. Imagine being there with a companion, someone you love. Let their presence in your memory bring you joy and comfort. Here is your 'Garden of Eden' where all is well. How do you imagine your garden to be? What kind of plants and living creatures? What colours, what smells, what sounds surround you? How would you like to see it flourish? How much 'gardening' do you do?

The Lord God planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees to grow – that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
Genesis 2:8-9

An open gate.
A garden beyond.
Something stirs in my memory,
a familiar place.
I thought it lost.

And beyond, an echo,
sometimes soft,
sometimes strong.
Your voice,
calling me by name.

And as I step towards you,
I feel again
the love you have for me,
the immense and overwhelming sense
of acceptance,
unconditional,
beyond my understanding.
I am home, again,
with you.



Keukenhof, Holland AEM 2019

.....
Lord, the world you gave us,
a place of delight,
fashioned for us alone.
Thank you.

All we ever needed,
you placed in the garden.
Strong leaf and shade,
cool water at our feet.
Every fruit and plant for our use.
Thank you.

Forgive us our misuse,
when greed replaces care
and your delicate balance is overturned.
Complex structure falling into chaos
without you.
Forgive us.

Help us to restore
the beauty and the balance
of your gift to us.

*Prayers by Eddie Askew:
'There was a Garden'
Printed with permission*