

Remember

by Rev. Dr. Robin Hawley Gorsline

Joy Harjo is the current Poet Laureate of the United States, as well as a musician, playwright, and author. She is a member of the Muscogee Nation and is the first Native American to serve as Poet Laureate.

Much of Harjo's glorious poetry tells stories of her people and relating them to the larger themes of love, caring for the world through respect for all beings human and not-human, and knowing, claiming and celebrating your roots.

One of my favorite poems by her is "Remember." When I read it the first time, I was struck by how many different elements she names as worth remembering—too many of which, I realized, I tend to ignore.

Without using the word "God," Harjo reminds me that the source of life is the love of God for all Creation. She reminds me that this lifeblood beats in me as it also beats in you and all beings. She helps me remember that love makes a way through everyone and every thing when we stay open.

You can hear her read her poem at this link <https://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plans/remember-joy-harjo> . Click on the video (you need not read the information about lesson plans for teachers), and enjoy the simple elegance and power she shares.

