

**Coop's Scoops # 100 !!! September 10, 2020**

**Ringling my bell with gladness!**

I did it! Well God did it through me! Well, we all did it! Well, it got done. 100 times. All errors, omissions and weird things are my doing, and some of the good things too!



There is a great lesson to be learned from this pandemic ministry we are enjoying together.

1/ It allows the Gospel to be read and heard and mulled over way more than Sunday service ever did. It is in our hands and on our computers or delivered by hand.

2/ As this goes out to 286 families which is at least 400 people, and has gone out 100 times, then 40,000 times the Gospel has been read and preached on if people actually read Scoops. And I know the vast majority of you do.

3/ In a normal year, I spend hours writing 52 sermons. In six months, I have written 100 so far. So you, my dear friends, have had a full two years of church preaching and could be excused until 2022! So come for the music.

4/ It has allowed me to get to know you, and you to get to know me, in a much fuller way than I've ever experienced in ministry previously.

I am so grateful!

We can take what we've learned about outreach by mail ( and by those who live-stream) and not leave it behind when we have public worship on Sundays. It's a new wineskin for some of the wine! Isn't that just like God? To help us find new life and new ways to minister in the time of pandemic when the old ways were just not possible. Lesson learned by this old girl.



Photo by Joanne Cunnington who writes:

“Even the wild turkeys are social distancing, and not going far from home. They are outside so masks not needed!”

Well done, wild turkeys! May we all be as responsible as you are.

Although, come to look at it more closely that young turk at the bottom needs to move on a bit from middle turk to be safe.

### **Prayers Requested:**

For Rev. Margaret+.. David’s service was today, and I am certain that the Holy Spirit was very present and full of hope and consolation, and our prayers are now needed for her, for her family and friends, and for peaceful hours of rest and comfort.

For three parishioners who do not wished to be named, but are all diagnosed with cancer recently. Please pray for the wisdom of physicians, the details of treatment, and confidence and strength to live fully and well through this difficult journey.

Kids and teachers back next week....or entering home-learning. Please pray for all who are anxious, fearful, and confused, as well for those who just can’t wait and are already practicing cartwheels down the halls.

### **Good News:**

Both Lake of Bays and St. Thomas will receive grants from the Diocese in the amount of \$500 to help with the many costs of preparing for public worship. Products are already on hand or in shipping and work will begin soon on cleaning and sanitizing.

There will be a small and beautiful service of the Renewal of Wedding Vows for Grace and Bill Taylor at St. Thomas at 4pm Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup>. Connie will be back at the organ, Rob and she will sing, I will preach and perform the renewal liturgy, and we are praying that Bill and Grace will have a special time as they celebrate 50 years of marriage. All covid protocols are in effect.

Smiles for Today:

A little boy was in a relative's wedding.  
As he was coming down the aisle, he would take  
two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd.  
While facing the crowd, he would put his hands  
up like claws and roar.  
So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step,  
ROAR, all the way down the aisle.  
As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears  
from laughing so hard  
by the time he reached the pulpit.  
When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed  
and said,  
"I was being the Ring Bear."

Both sent in by Jacquie Howell.....thanks!

A little boy was overheard praying:  
"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't  
worry about it.  
I'm having a real good time like I am."

**Scripture for Today:** Psalm 8:3-6(a) New Revised Standard Version

<sup>3</sup> When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;

<sup>4</sup> what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals<sup>[a]</sup> that you care for them?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made them a little lower than the angels<sup>[b]</sup>  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You have given them dominion over the works of your hands

**Homily:**

Oh the stars over Frau Lake just outside my door at home. On a clear night there are gazillions, or as my math genius late husband would have said a googplex of light. That is a very big number, yet what I am seeing is just a tiny little slice of a universe so big my mind can't take it in. I am



always humbled when I lay gawking on the deck. God's handiwork....so strong, so powerful, so beautiful, so BBBBIIIIGGG. In comparison, I feel small, and common, and not so important to the whole of life.

When I feel that way, I see God shaking His head, and holding up His hand to quiet me saying " You're everything to Me...you keep the universe going....if you weren't here, it would be diminished". Then I think Judie, give your head a shake! I know that I am neither more or less important than anyone else; that my life matters, and that how I live affects some others and the environment. And I also know that the God who made it all, including you and me, thinks so highly of us, knows us so deeply, and trusts us to take over the work of His hands. Now that is amazing! The Psalmist and I have two hearts beating as one when we both wonder "What is man (woman) that You are mindful of them...that You care for them?".

Think about these things that God thinks about you:

- Your healing and salvation were worth Jesus coming from God; leaving the Ivory Palaces (old hymn), and being born as a mortal...as one who would die..as one who would live a daily life not unlike ours ..as one who would die and be raised from the dead to take care of the problem, the burden, the awfulness of sin forever. I am often amazed and happy that friends from far away think I'm worth their taking time to travel to see me. God thought about me as worth much more than my greatest friend or family member ever did! Goes for you, too.
- God thinks we can be changed, transformed, achieve new thoughts, do more than we can imagine. When we present ourselves...our living bodies...to Him they are renewed and changed to be better than the best version of ourselves we could imagine. He believes in us.
- Jesus was amazed by the faith of several human beings. God's grace empowers us to even surprise Him sometimes ( I'm speaking in very human terms here) with our faith, with our loving compassion, with our sacrificial work to make the world a better place, to give to the poor, and dress the naked, and visit the prisoners, and shelter the homeless.
- God will one day say to us "Well Done!" He will call us "Good and Faithful Servants". When we live according to His commandment to love one another, He is pleased with us. Sees us as good, and powerful to help.
- God also knows that we are sinners. That our human inclinations are not always toward good. That we fail miserably at love sometimes, that we can become so self-serving that we disregard our neighbours and mangle our planet. He is aware that we are in constant need of Him, so He makes Himself available anytime, anywhere to listen to us, help us, free us, forgive us. And even knowing us to the deepest core of our being – even knowing all humanity to that core – knowing the heights of good and evil we can attain... knowing all that He pronounces us "just a little lower than the angels".
- Jesus said He came to give us life. That is wonderful. And then He adds "and have it more abundantly". Jesus thinks we should be joyful, useful,

loved and loving, able to see and feel beauty, and enjoy the fruits of the earth and the work of our hands.

You can add to those thoughts enormously from your knowledge of the Scriptures and your experiences of the faithful, strong, love of God.

**Bottom line:** God is “for” us, and values us, and trust us to complete the work of His hands. I think I’ll ring my bell again. In joy! Amen.

**Prayer for Today:**

Spirit of the Living God, You have been with me today and I thank You.

There was sunrise and sunset, there were flowers and fruits, there were people in need and people who helped, there were stars in the sky. There were family and friends; gifts of Your grace. You give me creativity to envision new possibilities and the strength to bring them into reality because of Your action in my life. Thank you, Lord God, for being with me today. I so enjoy the pleasure of Your company! Amen.

**Blessing:**

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit rest upon us and upon all our work and worship done in His name. May He give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us, now and for evermore. Amen.