

Coop's Scoops #11 April 1st, 2020

Here it is April Fool's Day, and I didn't even think of that until one in the afternoon. Usually, I would have plotted and carried out some pretty good pranks before 9 in the morning. My mind is apparently on other things this year. Yet I do hope there are some folks still making jokes and having fun with children on this day that kids all love. How about eating the creamy part of Oreo cookies and putting the chocolate parts back together with toothpaste in the middle!

On my drive in, a flash of orange caught my eyes in a nearby tree, and there it was, a Baltimore Oriole, just flashing in the sunlight. I had not seen one of those birds since I lived in the Burlington area before I was married. I gave thanks to God for making such an amazingly gorgeous bird, and then, of course, my strange mind came up with "Good job, little bird, Baltimore is not the place to be right now." And then I prayed for people who do live there in this covid-time, struggling with the same isolation and anxiety that we are enduring here in Canada.



Verla Hammond sent in a response to a Scoops that made my heart sing and needs to be shared with everyone. Having told me about all the calls and kindnesses she is receiving, she wrote: "One benefit of all this isolation is that people have elevated their concern for one another, me included. As my 16 year old grandson who works as a grocery cashier said "Maybe when this is over people will be nicer". Now that's wisdom presenting a great hope! Let's keep being part of making that happen. Thank you.

Jacquie Howell forwarded some words from philanthropist Bill Gates that just have to be shared as well. I'm typing it all out here, so you don't have to work with multiple attachments.

THE EARTH IS CRYING OUT: Bill Gates

What is the Corona/Covid-19 virus really teaching us? I'm a strong believer that there is a spiritual purpose behind everything that happens, whether we see

that as good or bad. As I meditate upon this, I want to share with you what I feel the virus is really doing to us:

- It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally, perhaps we should too. If you don't believe me, ask Tom Hanks.
- It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport.
- It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression
- It is reminding us of how precious our health is and how we have moved to neglect it through eating nutrient poor manufactured food and drinking water that is contaminated with chemicals upon chemicals. If we don't look after our health, we will, of course, get sick.
- It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet rolls.
- It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give more value to.
- It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is, and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our homes and to strengthen the family unit.
- It is reminding us that our true work is not our job. That is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another.
- It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. It is reminding us that no matter how great we think we are, or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our whole world to a standstill.

- It is reminding us that the power of free will is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and support each other or we can choose to be selfish to hoard, to look after only our self. Indeed it is difficulties that bring out our true colours.
- It is reminding us that we can be patient, or we can panic. We can either understand that this type of situation has happened many times before in history and will pass, or we can panic and see it as the end of the world, and consequently, cause ourselves more harm than good.
- It is reminding us that this can either be an end or a new beginning. This can be a time of reflection and understanding, where we learn from our mistakes, or it can be the start of a cycle which will continue until we finally learn what we need to learn.
- It is reminding us that this Earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at the rate of deforestation just as urgently as we look at the speed at which toilet rolls are disappearing off shelves. We are sick because our home is sick.
- It is reminding us that after difficulty, there is always ease. Life is cyclical, and this is just a phase in a great cycle. We do not need to panic; this too shall pass. Whereas many see the Covid-19 virus as a great disaster, I prefer to see it as a great corrector. It is to remind us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten and it is up to us if we will learn them or not.” (Food for thought Indeed)

Archdeacon Kelly has prepared a great Morning Prayer service for home use on this coming Palm Sunday. I will be attaching it with the sermon for that day. You will need a printer to copy it out to read, or take a tablet or phone for a leader to use. It involves going outside into our own back yards if we are fortunate enough to have one. Once there, we cut a switch of cedar, or a plain stick of something, and use that for our palm branches. Anything green would do...even a plant from indoors. Or just make some.....



Then we follow the words of the service, and finally process back to our front doors with our great Canadian “palm” branch saying Hosanna in the Highest! We could then fix whatever we used to palms into our window or on the door. The words and actions of this service fit together so well. I hope that those who can will use it. No matter what, practice social distancing and do this only as a nuclear family, or individual...no groups gathering at all, please.

MAG’S TAG’S: A note from Deacon Margaret Morrison

I have been trying to think of a name that would be as clever and catchy as Rev Judie’s and have to date rejected Moe’s woes, Mag’s wags, Moe’s prose, and Moe’s outflow. Since I will occasionally be tagging on to Rev Judie’s Coop’s Scoops, I have decided on Mag’s tags. If folks have a better suggestion please let me know. I pray daily that all of you are well and safe. I know of two friends who have tested positive for Covid 19, have experienced some very miserable symptoms and who now are starting to feel a bit better. My husband recently discharged from Toronto General in Toronto has been tested, and thank you dear Lord, is negative. I am very grateful for the spiritual, ecumenical resources that I have been able to access on the internet. I love Archbishop Anne’s nightly prayers for those of every race and creed. The human connection, while difficult, is ever more important. I have been looking at life lessons from Holocaust survivors and find them to be very helpful in this time of required isolation from people we care about so deeply. I hope this sample may be helpful to you as well. 1. Adapt to circumstances you cannot change, no matter how difficult. 2. We can choose our attitude and choice of action when responding to this trying time 3. Never lose hope 4. Develop an inner life that nourishes you during times of despair 5. Take very good care of yourself 6. Create a support network 7. Help others and find meaning and purpose in doing so 8. Appreciate simple pleasures I pray our dear Lord walks beside you through these difficult days and gives you strength. Know how deeply God loves each one of you. Rev Margaret (Deacon, Lake of Bays and Bracebridge Parish)

This has been a very long Scoops! Time to make our exit!

One joke: A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps to send some Easter Cards.

"What Denomination?" Asked the postmaster.

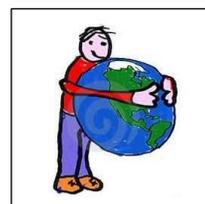
"Oh, my goodness! Have we come to this?" said the woman.

"Well give me 50 Anglican and 50 Catholic!"

One Scripture: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the Year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance (for our Lord, to comfort all who mourn, for all who mourn in Zion, to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord to display His glory, They shall build up ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations, they shall repair the ruined cities and the devastations of many generations. (Isaiah 61: 1-4)

One Prayer: Unto you, O Lord, do we lift up our hands. We seek your Face. We love your mercy. Grant us the wisdom to know and the will to do those things which will bless our community in this time. And receive our praise for all your goodness toward us and all peoples. Amen.

One big hug and blessing from Rev. Judie+



Oh, why not two!!

