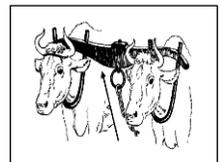




Coop's Scoops #13 April 5, 2020

Good morning! How was your Palm Sunday worship yesterday? Live streamed, at home, in the yard, alone or with the family you live with? I put on my stole, grabbed my Canadian palm branch and headed outside to read and pray the service, do my procession up and down the driveway, and sing All Glory Laud and Honour! Then I marched across the highway and down to my dock and blessed all the families that live around Frau Lake. I very much sensed the presence of "others" doing the same thing, and felt very connected to all of you. I was very grateful! There is indeed one place we can all go at the same time, all the time, with no need for social distancing, and that is Near To the Heart of God. We go there just as we are, with our hopes, our anxieties, our needs, our concerns for loved ones....and stay until some peace starts seeping through. **"Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light". Matthew 11: 28-30.**

Let's think about that together. We can relate to being weary and heavy laden, but what is this "My yoke is easy" "My burden is light" when things seem to be oh-so-hard these days. If you could find a farmer from Jerusalem back in the day, he or she would tell you exactly what that means. Oxen usually, or even horses, were used as the primary ploughing equipment. And two worked better than one. So yokes were made. Now sometimes, when money was short or people were in a hurry, they made wooden yokes from bent tree limbs, wetting and stretching and then tying into a contraption to hold the animals together. Those animals would develop bruising, and bleeding and be in pain while labouring in the field. At other times, when people's hearts remembered they were to care for the beasts of the earth, they made yokes a different way. Yes, bent wood, soaked until it was pliable, but then covered with leather or layers of cloth stitched all around to hold some padding unto the yoke. Animals working



together in those yokes were not injured and bore the work easily, with greater speed, and greater results. Those yokes were called "EASY YOKES". What Jesus was saying is that when we are yoked to Him, side by side, the yoke has been tailored made for us. That it "fits" us, and is pliable and will not chafe or harm us. Working yoked with Him in our daily lives means that He is literally carrying at least half the load at all times, and we can manage what is left to us to do. And that also by being to us, Jesus Himself finds His burdened lightened. Imagining that translated into covid-19 language, it means that no one of us is without a partner in living out our faith, and being the visible Gospel during this pandemic. When we "come" to Jesus with our burdens and are weariness, He will sidle up beside us, slip into a yoke, and help us through it all.

This being Holy Week, all the Scoops will start with a short message from the Scripture prayerfully aimed at helping us to come nearer and nearer to Jesus until we are both right at the foot of the Cross and near the Tomb on Resurrection morning. Hope it is helpful.

On to some fun for the day!

Did you know that back in Jesus' day, they didn't just have yokes, they also had automobiles?



We know because the disciples were all of one Accord!
(collective groan..)

Kid's not in school? This might give you a smile... Billy had been misbehaving and was sent to his room. After a while he emerged and informed his mother that he had thought it over and then said a prayer. "Fine", said the pleased mother. "If you ask God to help you not misbehave, He will help you." "Oh, I didn't ask Him to help me not misbehave," said Johnny. "I asked Him to help you put up with me."

News:

Archbishop +Anne will be live streaming the first Station of the Cross as part of Evening prayer tonight at 5 pm. There will be another Station of the Cross

included in each session this week. Go to the Diocesan website or her Facebook page to view.

Great news that those born in January, Feb and March, who have lost their income due to covid-19 may now apply for the Emergency Cash Benefit. The application system seems to be working pretty well, just go to Canada.ca and answer questions about eligibility. This program is only for people who have lost all of their income, so seniors receiving OAS or CPP are not eligible at this time. Changes are coming so that folks working less than 10 hours per week because of covid-19 may also become eligible.

THANK YOU! HUGELY! to all from St. Thomas who have been able to bring their offering envelopes to the mail slot in the church door, or send by mail. Thanks to people at St. Ambrose who are storing up their offerings at home until the church reopens or sets up other procedures. And thanks to all who are on the Electronic Offering Program and whose donations come week by week. Expenses continue...heat, though, is going down for sure!... and all donations are thankfully received and much appreciated.



On the other hand, if you find yourselves unable to make any contributions at this time, do not be distressed. When you have scarcely enough to care for one another, then doing just that should be your first priority. If you think that's wrong, see what Jesus says about giving what belongs to parents (people you should support, or children, or family in general) to the Temple in Mark 7: 11. And if you find yourself without food or other necessities, please ask us. Freely, freely we have received...freely, freely we give.



HOLY WEEK AT HOME: Mag's Tags (The Rev. Margaret Morrison, Deacon)

A message I read today that I feel is important for all of us. We need to remember the liturgy of Holy Week is not a recreation of the past but rather it is an anamnesis, an active remembering of the past so that we may live those

realities today. We need to ask the Lord to keep us faithful in word and deed and to help us love God to the very best of our ability. Although the new Corona virus (Covid 19) may be novel, the response of the church during times of difficulty is not. In good times and in bad, the people of God, the Church pray, "Lord have mercy".

Maundy Thursday is known in some places as the most significant day for Vocational Deacons, as the patron liturgy for Diaconal Ministers. I often preach and experience an incredible strengthening of my mission, my servanthood. Maundy Thursday commemorates The Last Supper and the New Commandment. It was the day when Jesus taught us to love to the end. How blessed are we?

On Good Friday I traditionally offer an ecumenical dramatic re-enactment of the events of Good Friday. Parishioners have rehearsed and played roles that have had an enormous impact on the congregation. The service in Lake of Bays has always ended with Ruth singing "Were you there?" Others filled this acapella role in St Thomas and St James. Their contributions, I believe have been a gift to God. Many folks left with tears running down their cheeks.

On Easter Sunday, let us pray: O risen Saviour, make us to burn with the fire of your love, that we may love You above all things and love our neighbours as ourselves. Deliver us from fear and relieve the anxiety of our hearts, that we may live out fully, the hope planted within us by your resurrection. Lord have mercy, hear our prayer. I wish you all a joyous Easter!!