

## Coop's Scoops #138: Thursday, December 19, 2020

Today I had a visitor who brought me lots of joy.....this is Everitt, grandson of Tracy and Peter, who arrived with Mom Becky to say "hi" in his new Mickey House hat. I was masked! Took the photo and zoomed it! Just sayin! I want to write about joy today, so this picture seemed a very good beginning.



Yesterday in our Eucharist service, I asked folks to tell me one thing GOOD that had happened in the past week in their lives. We all heard about a baby born! Joy, joy, joy. And one gentleman said "My feet actually hit the floor every morning!" Again, joy, joy, joy in being alive. And one lady expressed that she had just had her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday! So we sang to her. Joy, Joy, Joy. Thank you God for Eileen Hewitt! For me, I had a fake snowball fight in my livingroom with my grandchildren Gregory and Claire! So fun... we clobbered Kel and Bill! Oh, and they got us back a bit too.

Simple things. Joy, Joy, Joy. And hugely important things when so much around us is dark, chaotic, restrictive, confusing, challenging, and so many are just plain lonely and nearing despair. Paul writes about times like that. In Romans 8:36 he quotes Psalm 44 "For your sake we are being killed all day long, we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered". Yet, in the midst of all that, Paul concludes in verse 37 : **"Yet even in the midst of all these things, we triumph over them all, for God has made us to be more than conquerors, and his demonstrated love is our glorious victory over everything!"**

Then there's the Prophet Zephaniah also writing about times of chaos and peril, saying in 3:17: **"The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you<sup>[a]</sup> in his love; He will exult over you with loud singing".**

Again, there is joy, joy, joy! It delights me that God exults over us, you and me, with loud singing; with joy. That is something good that we can claim for ourselves not just once a week but every day of our lives no matter what is going on around us. Joy, joy, joy.

Did you notice that I managed to trick you into reading the Scripture and the Homily first today? There won't be more at the end as usual! And that makes me smile. Got ya!

### **News from the Parish:**

#### **LAKE OF BAYS**

Sadly there has been a small to medium size piece of stained glass "chipped" out from the St. Ambrose Altar window recently, we know not how. Possibly a rock tossed by a distant snow blower. We're just not sure. Brent and Susan have covered the hole to keep out the elements, and we will be looking at how to repair this damage. I'll keep you posted on progress, but things are okay for the moment. This coming Wednesday is TURKEY DAY at the Winter Pantry. Please pray for Susan and volunteer Heather as they make Christmas bright for the Lake of Bays clients; singles, families and children. The generosity of donors and community groups is outstanding every year, but this year in particular no effort has been spared to ensure a happy day for folks who are struggling. The smiles will be ENORMOUS! Please pray for God's blessings on this work and on all the people who serve and who are served!

LOB Deacon Margaret Morrison will be visiting in BC over Christmas and we all wish her a happy time with family, and the joy of the birth of Jesus filling her heart with hope and delight.

#### **ST. Thomas:**

Tomorrow is the final weekday Eucharist at St. Thomas until mid January. I will need God in the midst of us to keep me from crying! Seriously sad about this. However, it is a short time of giving up what we love in order to bless our community and our neighbours and add to the safety of others all around us. We will take heart and have joy, joy, joy knowing that Jesus is in the midst of us no matter where we are or how we worship. Thanks be to God.

Tomorrow is also the last day to buy FundScrip gift cards at the church office. See Tracy between 9 and 1pm if you need to purchase a gift that will also bless your church.

We finished the God and the Pandemic Bible Study this past Tuesday morning. If any one would like to read Bishop M.T. Wright's book, which is challenging but also extremely wise and enlightening, they can borrow mine! I also have one copy available for purchase at the cost of a mere \$15.

**Some Humour Just for the Joy of it!**



**REALLY, GRANDMA, THANKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

That's it for today, as you've already read your Scripture and Sermon.

**Just a closing Advent Three Litany:**

O God, you joyfully embraced humanity for our sake. With gratitude we pray:

**All: Come, Christ our Saviour.**

May justice and peace in our world be the fruits of justice and peace in our hearts.

**All: Come, Christ our Saviour.**

May we always have the eyes to see Christ in the unknown face.

**All: Come, Christ our Saviour.**

May we reach out the gentle hand of Christ in situations beyond our understanding.

**All: Come, Christ our Saviour.**

May we always choose to soothe rather than condemn. All: Come, Christ our saviour. May we be with and for one another, in a spirit of solidarity and love with all God's people.

**All: Come, Christ our saviour.**

**Blessing: May the joy of salvation flood your soul; the joy of belonging flood your heart and the joy of peace keep your mind fixed on the love of God and of His Son Jesus Christ, and may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you this Advent week and always.**

**- Judie+**

