



Coop's Scoops # 20 Hallelujah!

Christ is Risen

The Lord is Risen Indeed

Alleluia

What a wonderful "sign" of a joyful Resurrection morning! My heart skipped a beat when I first saw it. And then I stayed a good distance away from it, and watched passerbys get out of cars to photograph it.

Did you know that the flip side of this sign was on CTV news? The side that says "Our services are suspended, our Faith and Hope are not" was featured in when our churches were first closed? I'll bet there is a follow up with this Resurrection sign! THANK YOU to Michele and Tony Bertin who designed, created, sawed, painted, pasted and erected this wonderful gift to all of Bracebridge. Makes you proud in a totally good way doesn't it?

Today's Scoops will be on the shorter side. The internet is not behaving entirely dependably in this time when millions more people are doing everything on line. My own laptop is crashing from time to time, and I am attempting to find

someone who can work on it, or sell me a new one if necessary. If you want to be sure to connect with me, please use the office email (saint.thomas@bellnet.ca) or text or call me at 705 205 0549. I will let you know when the computer issue is resolved.

A short meditation: When I was thinking about our beautiful sign in my prayer time on Sunday evening, my mind was taken to a Scripture that most of us as a little song. “The wise man build his house upon the rock.....the foolish man built his house upon the sand...”and we all know which house stood firm The actual Scripture is Matthew 7: 24-27. Our sign is shown to be standing upon a carved out rock with a stone rolled away and an empty tomb. Also green grass and Easter lilies. I have always understood the Rock that Jesus spoke of as being His own Word. “ Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who.....or a foolish man who...” Or sometimes I’ve thought of the rock to build on as Peter, who was given a name that means “Rock” by Jesus. “ I tell you, you are Peter (Greek: Petros, rock) and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it”. Some think the rock we are to build on is the Law, the Commandments, the Beatitudes. How do we know that we are indeed building on a firm foundation? Well, we know when the storms come, and the wind blows, and the rain is driving sideways. If we are built on the rock, we will stand. If our foundation is soft sand, we will fall, and “great will be the destruction of that house”.

These are certainly storm-tossed times, with pressures that tear at the fabric of our relationships, and our families, and our well-being. It is to the honour and glory of our God that we stand firm in faith and hope. And it is only human that we tremble a bit, and the foundations creak a little, but nonetheless we shall stand. What was new for me, looking at our sign, was realising that the rock it was standing over was the empty tomb, with the big boulder rolled away. The rock on which the Church and on which Christians stand can indeed be the empty tomb . St. Paul clearly defines the Resurrection as the foundational belief of the early Church in 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19, which concludes with “ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied”. I encourage you to read all of chapter 15 today , or soon. We need very much to

be reminded of the eternal purposes and power of our great God in raising Jesus from the dead, and giving us the greatest foundation for our lives, our "homes", there could ever be. Life in hope- underneath us are the everlasting arms, and also a rock that cannot be shaken. Amen.

Suggestions for some joy today:

For a blessing of song and exquisite video go to YouTube and enter Easter Version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah! (thanks to Joanne for sending)

For a great musical romp, especially if you have some children around, is the Sound of Music, Julie Andrews and youngun's reworked with words about Covid-19. Honestly it will make smile ear to ear. Again on YouTube , entering Maria-Sound of Music Covid19

Here's a good story from a former parishioner in Thunder Bay....Joy Liggins is her name. She and her husband Don always pray for me and the churches I pastor, so they are praying for all of you as well.

Humour for the Day: Doilies

There once was a man and a woman who had been married for more than 60 years. They talked about everything. They kept no secrets from each other... except that the old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she cautioned her husband never to open it or ask her about it.

For all these years he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would never recover.

In trying to sort out their affairs the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed it was time that he should know what was in the box.

When he opened it he found 2 beautifully crocheted doilies and a stack of money totaling over \$25,000. He asked her about the unusual contents.

"When we were married," she said, " my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doily."

The little old man was so moved, he had to fight back tears. Only two precious doilies were in the box. She had only been angry with him two

times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with joy and happiness.

"Sweetheart," he said... "that explains the doilies, but what about all this money? Where did it all come from?"

Oh," she said, " that's the money I made from selling the doilies."

Prayers for Today:

When the rain hides the stars, when the autumn mist hides the hills, when the clouds veil the blue of the sky, then let not the dark happenings of my lot hide the shining of Thy face from me. Then let me hold Thy hand in the darkness, that is enough. Since I know that, though I may stumble in my going, thou dost not fall. Thou wilt hold me up. - A Gaelic prayer of the 1600's, Oxford Book of Prayer

May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to Himself!

May the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in His service!

May the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our souls!

May the blessing of God almighty,

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,

Be amongst you and remain with you always.

William Temple, 1881-1944

We hold up to you Lord our God, our Archbishop +Anne, Archdeacon Kelly and all who serve as Priests and Deacons in this Diocese. May they be strengthened by the power of your might, and renewed by the depths of your love. We pray also for all lay people in their ministries and relationships which point others toward the love and grace of God. May they feel your blessing upon them. We pray for all first-responders who engage daily with peril to their own minds and bodies as they serve people suffering from Covid-19 and the other tragedies of human living. We pray for all who govern that they may exercise wisdom and justice and compassion, and that they may be granted rest and refreshment to enable them to continue in difficult times. We entrust ourselves, our families, our faith and local communities to your unending mercy and awesome power, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Final Plea: Would whoever is using envelope #38 please let me know your name. It is not on our current list and we want to fix that! Don Evans will be happy!