

Coop's Scoops #21: Thursday April 16th, 2020

What a day so far! There were blue skies and brilliant sunshine when I got up at 7:30. Lovely. Then off I went to Gravenhurst for the interment of our dear friend Ellen Harper where I stood in my robes in a blizzard of snow, and then back to town where there is no snow but only enough blue to make a Dutchman's britches, as my granny used to say. The weather is certainly changeable, but still mild enough to get outside for a brisk, albeit somewhat lonely, walk along Fraserburg Road where social distancing is no problem. I seldom meet a human face and when I do, it is accompanying a doggie's face. Spring however is surely coming. "Spring" has not told about Covid-19, and is galloping right along as usual. Thanks be to God. In my garden, tulip leaves are about two inches up now, some crocus as well, and my 500 tiger lilies at the road base of my yard are also punching up beautifully. These pics are

from last year's flowers. This morning, on the fairly recently flowing

water (no more ice) of Frau Lake, I saw three

Mallard ducks swimming about. They haven't

been told about Covid-19 either. It is comforting

to know that while so many precious things

have changed in recent months, the seasons come

as expected, and nature continues its lovely cycle

of beauty, and the planet still spins, and the sun

still shines and God is still on the throne, and all shall be well. Different but well.

Hang in there, beloveds, and feast on hope.



DelightfulSong.mp4

Here is something called a "Delightful Song" and it is! Hope you enjoy it. It was sent to me from Pam Hough and I just want to say "I think you're wonderful too! Hope it opens properly for everyone.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 6: 25-33

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life; what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you shall wear. Is not LIFE more than food,

and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... (vs32b) for your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

When Jesus spoke these words, he was speaking to His own disciples, people who knew what poverty was all about, who had to depend on others (women who followed Jesus) to provide their daily food and whatever it was they wore, and also speaking to large crowds of people who would have included amongst them peasants, subsistence farmers, widows and orphans, the homeless, and those caring for their elders or ill people in their families. They could still GATHER, whereas we cannot. But their lives were much the same as our own. Ordinary people living the best they could under all sorts of circumstances, good and bad. They were not people who could be easily convinced that God could or would or would even want to meet their needs. As the Scriptures say so often: Those who have ears to hear, heard. And were blessed in their understanding.

I am NOT just saying platitudes today, like "buck up", "count your blessings", "the sun'll come up tomorrow" sort of things. Neither would Jesus. I am saying, as did Jesus, that God values you, and God wills a good future filled with hope for all of you, and God will help you in having what you need... Not necessarily what you want...but what you need. Me, well, I want to hug my grandchildren desperately. Sigh - not now. I'd love to go out for lunch. Not now. I am dying to buy a new spring outfit. Uh uh. I am sick of my own cooking. Yup. I want to go to a concert. I desperately want to have communion. I want to hear the organ. I want to see you in your pews. At this moment, my "wants" are neither God's nor anyone else's priority. And yet, I have everything I need. Something to do (my ministry). Someones (pl) to love. And Something to hope for. These I find in and through Jesus, and Jesus' people, like you, and our Archbishop and other Christian folk. I am grateful. And you know what? I'm also sad. I find myself saying "Hosanna!" one hour and brimming with tears the next. I'm out of balance. My brain is reacting against all the different chemical reactions that come from living in isolation and without our usual stimuli. It's perfectly normal. It's perfectly human. It's perfectly Christian.

If you are feeling that way, too, then welcome to my heart, welcome to the human family, welcome, welcome, welcome. Please pray for me, as I pray for you. And with God's help and grace, we will be the hands and feet that bring love and help and the kindness of prayer to others in Jesus' name. As 2 Corinthians 4:8 says : *"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, yet not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus (the forgiveness of our sins) so that the life of Jesus (resurrection light and power) may also be made visible (seen by others) in our bodies (whole beings)."* The bracketed words are just my amplication)

Take courage, little flock, and trust in God. And take delight in the lilies and the birds of the air, and the laughter of children (which still goes on even when we can't hear it!). We are all here for each other. And love wins.

Well that little commentary turned into a whole sermon. Can't help it sometimes. You can take the woman out of the church, but you can't take the preacher out of this girl!

Prayers for Today:

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of Thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. (Book of Common Prayer)

Lord comfort the sick, the hungry, the lonely and those who are hurt and shut in on themselves, by Your presence in their hearts; use us to help them in a practical way. Show us how to set about this and give us strength, tact and compassion. Teach us how to be alongside them, and how to share in their distress deeply in our prayer (and our actions) - Michael Hollings and Etta Gullick. (My ps to this prayer.....and help us to all this while social distancing!!!)

Finally, your JOKE: Barista: How do you take your coffee, Judie?

Me: Very, very seriously!

That's it!