

## Coop's Scoops # 219 Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021



Fourteen months ago, on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we had our last 'normal' worship service in the sanctuary at St. Thomas. Then many of us were off in the evening for the installation of Kelly as Archdeacon in Huntsville. What a beautiful service that was! I'll never forget all the little children putting her cope over her head and "dressing" her in her new robes. That's memory lane....the future beckons! This Sunday at 9am (BCP ) and 11 am (BAS) we will celebrate Eucharist in the Sanctuary. There is a maximum of 30 people per service. The service will be kept to 45 minutes unless I get too "mouthy"! That leaves time for a spritzing and ventilation between services. In order to attend, people must phone the office at 7-5 645 3486 to register their attendance. Otherwise, people may arrive at the door and be turned away should we be at our max list capacity. Please be sure to call on or before Friday July 9<sup>th</sup> in the mornings. Tracy or Cathy will be very happy to speak to you and put you on the list. Similarly, there are 10 people max for the Thursday morning 10am Eucharist in Browning Hall, commencing JULY 15<sup>th</sup>. Please call to register for that service as well.

There are still pandemic restrictions governing how we enter, be "in" and leave the building, and you will be guided through that process by our volunteers. Masks are mandatory inside unless you are unable to wear one for a medical condition, in which case special seating arrangements will be available.

Our lists right now are pretty tiny. About 8 for the 9 am and perhaps a dozen for 11am...so lots of room to still book. There is, and will be for some time, a cautionary hesitancy about returning to public worship, and that is totally understandable. For those not yet ready to return, I will continue sending out the Readings, Sermon and Prayers in Sunday Scoops, and it will continue to be delivered to those who have no email at least during July. We'll see what the need is when we enter Step 3, and continue with them if people remain hesitant or the capacity remains low. The weekday Scoops will have to stop as I take on more services and a new study.



**The new study:** This will be more of a Scriptural Overview and Interactive exercise than actual Bible Study. I call it “**I love to tell the Story**”. For, you see, that what’s we desperately need to do, and to get better at doing! We must grow the church. Since the days of Jesus, the way to do that is one-to-one or two-to- two.

In this six week session, we will together look at Jesus’s, St. Paul’s and others advice on giving forth a witness to a friend or an acquaintance or colleague or someone who’s just crossed your path with a need. By the end of the course, everyone of us will have several ‘three to six sentence’ words that will share Jesus in ways that are not intrusive, bullying, ritualistic, or foreign to our own personalities! Yes, we will. And we will have authentic and happy ways of following up on those small conversations. I hope you’re interested! We will all do it differently, we all have more or less comfort with it, but we all need to be able to do it, and then to get on with just doing it! If this is not your cup of tea, there will be more Bible Studies offered in the fall. This group will meet in the Andrew Forest Room upstairs AFTER the Thursday morning Eucharist from 11:15 to 12:30 max! **It will begin on JULY 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Limited to 15 people, so book early!

Please remember that all plans for indoor worship and study can be cancelled should the Province or the Diocese find that restrictions need to be tightened or re-imposed.

---

If you would like to meet with friends at Memorial Park for a pleasant conversation and bag lunch, please join the small group of women from St. Thomas who gather there at 11:30 Wednesday mornings. This Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, I will not be able to join in as I’m on the National Worship Conference from Vancouver through ZOOM. Next week, hope to see you there.

---

## From Ven.Dr. Jay Koyle:

**Section 2 Step 2** of Reopening our Churches: In this section you will find the important changes, to Step 1 protocols, that come into effect with the implementation of Step 2 of Reopening our Churches.

These changes do not negate the guidelines outlined for Step 1 except where specifically noted. Effective date: The Sunday immediately following the province's implementation of Step 2 of Reopening Ontario; a minimum of 21 days after the implementation of Step 1.

The guidelines laid out in Step 1 of Reopening our Churches remain in effect with the following change: Church buildings will be open to in-person worship services and other activities. The total number of people permitted to be present in the building at any one time will not exceed 15% of the building's pre-pandemic capacity. Face coverings/masks and 2m (6ft) of physical distance are required at all times. Please make ample use of hand sanitizer and/or handwashing before and after the gathering as well as during if there is accidental contact. Accidental contact includes touching an item previously touched by another person. An attendance log book will be maintained with contact information for each attending person. Logbook sheets must be kept for 30 following the occasion of gathering. Please note that yard sales, any similar event, and all non-essential activities remain prohibited. It is highly recommended that online and outdoor options remain the primary mode of accomplishing church activities whenever possible.

The protocols from Step ONE which have not been altered during Step TWO include no singing during the service, reception in **one kind only** at the Eucharist, social distancing, masking, sanitizing, soloists requiring minimum of 14 feet distance from any other person, no coffee hour, and no gathering after service on the church property. So.....if we want to chat, and I probably will most Sundays, we can go to the park across the street and chat in smallish groups. I'm thinking a bag lunch picnic in the park one Sunday in August? Should be Step Three by then.

Will keep you posted!

## Some Fun on the Journey!

## Another gem from Alva

Arcelor-Mittal Steel, feeling it was time for a shakeup, hired a new CEO. The new boss was determined to rid the company of all slackers.

On a tour of the facilities, the CEO noticed a guy leaning against a wall. The room was full of workers and he wanted to let them know that he meant business.

He asked the guy, "How much money do you make a week?"

A little surprised, the young man looked at him and said, "I make \$400 a week ... Why?"

The CEO said, "Wait right here."

He walked back to his office, came back in two minutes, and handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, "Here's four weeks' pay. Now GET OUT and don't come back."

Feeling pretty good about himself the CEO looked around the room and asked, "Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-ball did here?"

From across the room a voice said, "Pizza delivery guy from Domino's."

### **Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 13: 8-13**

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, <sup>[b]</sup> but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love

**Homily:** The 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of Corinthians has long been called the "LOVE CHAPTER" of the epistles; written poetically, clearly and with great passion by Paul who himself knew well the fickleness of love, the fleeting nature of fame, and the tides of change that took him from preaching in the Greek marketplaces to conversations about conversation in a Roman jail cell. He knew how to abound and how to be in need. He knew deliverance and He knew suffering. Paul's whole life seems to echo the great words of Charles Dickens in "A Tale of Two Cities". "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of

wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.” That was a week by week description of the life and ministry of Paul.

Through it all, Paul concludes that it is only love that never fails. In our own lives and times, we may think we can take hold of other or better wisdom or virtue, we may believe that our practices and preferences are totally born of God’s will, we may enlighten or delude ourselves by what we do, what we read, what we speak or what we hear, but we will, at best, have only a small fist-full of truth. In this world, we see as in a mirror darkly. How is that? Well in the dark, or in shadowed light, a mirror can play tricks on us. Just so, when we look at the image of ourselves we project to others, we may see small imperfections as huge flaws, or we see great sin as simple misbehaviour. I know I tend to call my face full of wrinkles, when they are actually more like crevices! We can’t judge ourselves aright because we do not yet have the full light shining upon us. We will be standing in that full light when we see Jesus, as He is. We couldn’t stand that in this world any more than any Israelite could look upon the face of God and live! Yet God’s Word assures us that one day we shall do just that, see Jesus as clearly as He sees us; and know Him as fully as we are known. Whether that sounds like a reward or a threat depends upon our very human state of mind as we ponder it. The whole grace of the situation is resolved when we remember that one thing does not and will not change. That is LOVE. God is love. We are beloved. We are called to love as we are loved. And nothing can make God stop loving us. We can make Him more or less proud, but we cannot stop Him when it comes to His love for us.

God has not promised us that we will always be delivered from trouble, loss or catastrophe. John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul....they were not “delivered from” ....they were loved “through”. We too are promised that in all circumstances, delivered or not, we remain beloved, comforted and “salved” by the grace and love of our God.

During the year and a half of this pandemic, we have seen a lot as in a mirror darkly.... Strategies, causes, statistics, vaccines, effectiveness, how best to be safe....all the best and the brightest have disagreed at one time or another about details of the corona virus and variants. Messaging has been mixed. Yet at the heart of things we do find love.....love that drives young men and women to study ferociously to learn about the human genome and how immunity and

vaccines and general health are intertwined. Love that drives doctors and nurses and rns and psw's and cleaners and statisticians to work many hours beyond their pay to comfort, treat and support patients in hospitals, homes, clinics and care facilities. Love that compels paramedics and firefighters and police officers to rush in where others may not dare to tread in order to help, to rescue, to intervene, to bring to safety others who may in fact pose a deadly infection threat to them. Love is what keeps us going when we can't hug each other; when grandparents can't see or hold new babies; when beloved husbands and wives die alone in isolation. There has been much need for much help in all spheres of activity and caring, but there has been more need for love than for anything else whatsoever in this pandemic time . Loving our neighbours as we love ourselves has become a moral watchword for people of all faiths or no faith at all. We have seen how much love matters. And we can go on watching that happen, even as restrictions lessen and oportunites bloom once more.

The pandemic has been horrid and terrible yet it has clarified our vision. We see a little less darkly, perhaps, than we did before. Let us not lose that enhanced vision! Love never fails. Faith and abide – stay for long periods of time – but love is eternal. God is love. Amen.

Prayer:

Lord God, you know us through and through, top to bottom, inside out and you determined that we were worth saving, worth “salving” no matter what. You sent your Son Jesus to accomplish your Will to love us beyond any merit or comprehension. We thank You. Give us grace to live in love as You have loved us. This we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Blessing:

May the God of the peace that far surpasses all our knowledge or understanding keep our hearts and our minds fixed on His LOVE, and the LOVE of His Son our Saviour, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen. Judie+