

Coop's Scoops #32 Monday May 4th, 2020

Hello Scoopers!

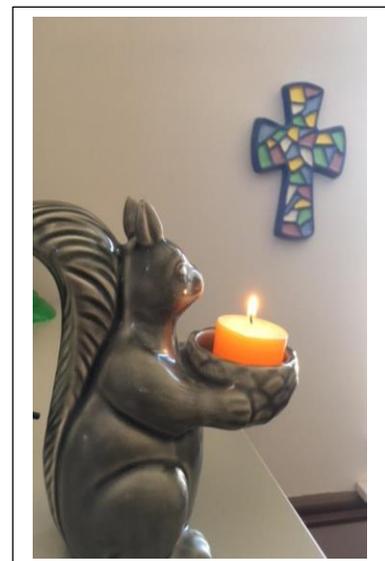
The first attachment is a video called The Great Realization, a moving story showing a dad reading his young son a book about the COVID pandemic, long past. A history book so to speak. It was sent in by both Paul LeMay and Pam Hough and I thank them, because now I can share it with all of you.

It is a sobering but wonderful summary of what can change, what can come out of all this suffering which will be of good to the world, and full of hope. Please watch it first! And then some frivolities, and then some good news!

So below you'll find the family chipmunk back gathering peanuts from the window ledge. He or she is doing fine! And then you'll see the news that the squirrels have returned to the Anglican Church. Remember that joke? Well, I gave him a job as an acolyte at the cross, and he is so faithful, he doesn't move from his position, stays alert, and causes no damage whatsoever. I would hire his cousins too, if they would behave as well. (That beautiful cross on the wall was made by Alva!)



All things bright and
Beautiful!
All creatures great and
small!
All things wise and
wonderful!
The Lord God made them
all!



Moving Ahead!

I had asked how people were feeling about the possibilities and the when and the how's of re-opening our Churches. I'm happy to report that most of us seem to be on the take care side of things. Phil Gunyon told me that he is working on building a small boat, with plastic parts. This is what he has to do: "Apply glue, hold the parts together. Fixture time is 15-30 seconds. Leave undisturbed for at least 10 minutes. For best results, allow full bond strength to develop overnight before handling. Cure Time: 12 to 24 hours, depending on temperature, humidity, porosity of surface bonded and amount of adhesive used."

Phil concludes: "So as far as Covid-19 is concerned, I think we may be just past the 10 minute mark, but we still need a heck of a lot more time to be sure, So stay closed for now." I think we are past the 10 minute mark and are allowing full bond strength to continue for as long as it takes! As congregations, we at St. Thomas and Lake of Bays are developing bonds of friendship, trust, and sharing which will never be left behind.

Some Scripture for today: Philippians 4: 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence if there is anything worthy of praise, THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Paul may sound somewhat pretentious and less than humble when he tells the Ephesians to imitate himself, but Paul has so earned that right, that proper way of instruction. Paul, who has been blind, imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked, scorned, accused, starved, and afloat in many a sea learned to rejoice in any situation. Now that did not mean he was HAPPY in every situation, but rather

that he kept on believing that our Lord Jesus Christ was present with him in every good or catastrophic moment, and that was something to rejoice and be glad about, for without Christ, he would have been totally overcome, full of bitterness, full of pain, full of regret, as he says himself, full of foolishness if Christ were not raised and living within him. I have never had to suffer like Paul did, but suffer I have and in quite heavy amounts at times, and yet I say with Paul that I can rejoice in all circumstances. Then I get to work to change them if I can! I don't revel in misery or return to places where I can expect to be deeply wounded again. But yes, rejoicing. I've actually a lot of rejoicing coming back to me from so many of you in your responses and contributions to Scoops. Much laughter. Much Hope. Fearless honesty. Love. In fact the things we've been talking about together are pretty much the same as the list Paul told us to think about....things that are true, things that are honourable, things that are pure, pleasing, commendable, excellent, praiseworthy.... Those things are indeed in your hearts, and mine, and I rejoice greatly today because I see those fruits growing in you, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Do not worry about anything unduly (that's my little addition). We can't help but be concerned and perhaps fearful, certainly stressed and for many of us, lonely and sad. Yet in those very things, we can rejoice that Christ is with us, and we can trust in His goodness and His love. I recently heard someone say: Ships don't sink because of the water all around them; they sink because of the water that gets in them. By practicing the type of thinking Paul is recommending, we can indeed keep the "water" of covid distress from weighing us down until we sink. I have that list "true...honourable...pure...good....etc...etc..." on my fridge and whenever I get to doing what our AA brothers and sisters call "Stinkin' Thinkin'" I look at that list and ask God to help me refocus.

May God be with you, and keep you in the palm of His hand! Blessings from Judie+

Prayer for Today:

May the grace of Christ my Saviour, and the Father's boundless love, with the Holy Spirit's favour, rest upon us from above. To the God whose wisdom made us, to the Son who set us free, to the sanctifying Spirit, glory, endless glory, be!
Hymn #481, Common Praise.

And (drum roll) your joke for the day!

This is an oldie but a goodie, and I had heard it before but forgotten it until reminded by a fellow Scooper.....here it goes.

The Priest was wanting to have a visual impact supporting her sermon for the day (Did you notice I did that gender thing? LOL). So she got four glass jars, filled one with alcohol, one quickly capped with smoke, one with chocolate syrup, and one with good dark moist earth.

Then into each jar she slipped a worm. The sermon went on....and on....and on....and on.....but when it finally ended she drew the congregation's attention to the jars.

Jar one – the alcohol Worm dead

Jar two - the smoke Worm dead

Jar three – the chocolate syrup Worm dead

Jar four - the good earth....Worm alive and wiggling.

Smiling, she asked the congregation what conclusions they may have come to from this demonstration. Maxine...over in the back...raised her hand and leapt to her feet shouting: " If you drink, smoke, and eat a lot of chocolate, you'll never have worms!"

