

Coop's Scoops #40 Tuesday May 19th, 2020

As I said previously, nature is carrying on with splendid disregard for Covid-19



despite my hopes for the eradication of black flies. There are other signs of spring though, that make my heart sing, like this one! Another great sighting along Fraserburg Road. Wasn't able to snap a photo but an egret emerged over the marshy area, and I saw a pair of red-winged blackbirds. If you get any good shots out walking send them along.

Jokes for the Day - from Caroline and Pam

- I was at the customer-service desk, returning a pair of jeans that were too tight. "Was anything wrong with them?" the clerk asked. "Yes," I said. "They hurt my feelings."
- Our fourth grader celebrated his birthday on crutches, so he couldn't carry the cupcakes into school without help. I asked our sixth-grader, Noah, to help his brother carry them in. "I could," he said, "but I'd prefer not to." Spotting a teaching moment, my husband asked Noah, "What would Jesus do?" Noah answered, "Jesus would heal him so he could carry his own cupcakes."

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the manager he wanted an unusual pet. After some discussion he finally bought a TALKING centipede (the ones with 100 feet). It came in a little box that he took home to use as the centipede's carrier. Sunday morning, he asked the centipede"

"Would you like to go to church with me"

There was no answer from his new pet.

Again he asked 'Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?'"

Again no response from the talking centipede.

Tried again “ Would you like to go church with me and learn about God and have a blessing?”

Sadly nothing but silence.

So the man leaned right against the side of his centipede’s white box where he thought the ear might be and said:

“WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CHURCH
WITH ME?”

This time a little voice came out of the box:

“Hey, I heard you the first time.....I was putting on my shoes!”

(If those jokes didn’t make you laugh, perhaps you were also putting on your shoes!)

On to News about the Church: an Update from Archbishop +Anne:

Archbishop+Anne, writing also as Metropolitan for the House of Bishops has advised the Diocesan clergy and asked us to let you know about concerns regarding church reopenings. There has been a petition of about 100 churches in Toronto asking the Premier to immediately reopen churches. The Anglican Church of Canada, including the Provincial Province Churches are **NOT** signing that petition, nor are most other predominantly “mainline” churches. They prefer a cautious, incremental reopening when the health officials declare that such gatherings present no additional risks to our communities or to each other. Even should the petition be granted, we will not be immediately reopening.

Now this is just me talking.... I applaud the stand of the Anglican Church and the wisdom of the House of Bishops and our Metropolitan/Archbishop. Our desire to

worship together in community needs to place the safety of our communities first. We are commanded two things by Jesus (well a few more as well): We are to love the Lord our God with all our minds and hearts and souls and bodies (This we can do and do every day, and we have the blessing of virtual gatherings offered as well) AND “we are to love our neighbours as ourselves”. Petitioning for opening church buildings at this time, I believe places selfish desires above the needs of our neighbours who desire to be kept safe and well in all our cities, towns, and villages.

We will offer praise and honour to God by waiting! Amen?

Your Scripture for today:Psalm 103: 1-12

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--
3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:
8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.
9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.
11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Homily: This Psalm is wonderful to read, and wonderful to remember. It is also a great outline for a bit of work in a journal.

Vs 1 and 2 call us to give praise from deep within us, remembering his great benefits toward us. We could all benefit from searching our hearts and asking where our deepest thanks and praises generally arise from: Are we more apt to be thankful for things, for answered prayers, for outward signs than for Who God Is...for Himself. I was once asked: "Judie, if you could have all the blessings, all the gifts, eternal life, all the mercy of Jesus without actually **servicing** Him, would you prefer that?" It sounds like a no-brainer question where any Christian would automatically say "no", but it's not. It's profound and if the Holy Spirit puts that into your hear for consideration, then think about deeply. Our praises need to be offered also for the challenges, the corrections, the suffering, and the sacrifice that always come with serving Him.

Vs 3,4,and 5 are about personal benefits given by our God for us to remember:

Read it as He forgives your own sin, heals your own diseases, redeems your life from the grave, crowns you yourself with love and mercy, satisfies you with good things, and renews your strength. Think of times when you yourself have experienced these benefits in your own life and record some of the times and ways that has happened.

Vs 6-7 describe the benefits we must remember toward GROUPS OF PEOPLE:

All of the oppressed will receive justice and commendation; all the people of Israel were given the teachings of God's ways and mighty power; they have been passed to all generations right up to us. How have you seen or experienced those benefits? How may some of them be timeless, and some be time-bound in the sense that they will be totally fulfilled until the fullness of the Kingdom of God?

Vs 8-10 describe the character of God which led Him to give us such benefits: He is merciful, gracious, patient, full of love, not bitter or vengeful. He does not deal with us as human character would; when we deserve punishment, when we

totally willfully go the wrong way, He doesn't slap us down and forget about us.. His anger dissipates, it melts away. This is God's character. He is good. Always good. Think of other characteristics we have come to know through Jesus.

Vs 11-12 give us the proof that God's character is always good. Here's how we know....because his love is steadfast and higher than the heavens...it is everywhere around us, above us, below us, and indeed in us. And because he doesn't just forgive our sins, He casts them so far away that they can never be dredged up again against us....as far as the east is from the west...that distance is eternal. Proof positive of the benefits we must remember, for which we must give our praises. Take it into your heart and never let it go.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord my soul, and do not forget all His benefits..... AMEN.

Prayers:

1. We come to sing unto the Lord. To heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation, We come into His presence with thanksgiving, and we will show ourselves glad in Him with psalms (Ps 95: 1,2 adapted)
2. O divine Love, sacred bond uniting the Father and the Son, Almighty Spirit, faithful comforter of the afflicted; penetrate the depth of my heart and fill it with the brightness of thy light. Send upon this desert, which is my soul, the sparkling dew of thy grace, and make fruitful that which has long been barren. Let the fiery darts of thy love reach the sanctuary of my soul, and, entering therein, set it on fire with so bright a flame that all my weakness, neglect and languor may be consumed in the passion of thy gentle embrace. Come, O come, sweet comforter of desolate souls. Refuge in danger and defender in distress, come with thy gifts of penitence and

healing of wounds. Come, strength of the weak. Come, teacher of the humble. Come, Holy Spirit, come. (attributed to Saint Augustine)

(I recommend the prayer above as a daily prayer of preparation for Pentecost on May 31st.)



Blessing:

May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Judie+

