



Do these People Look Happy?

Guess what? They are!!!

Claire and Gregory, Bill and Kelly and I had a socially distanced outdoors only get-together at my place on the beautiful Saturday we just had. It was as close to “normal” as we’ve come for months, and I was absolutely exhilarated. Claire was jumping for joy...can that girl get up in the air? Wow. Me, not so much. Gregory can, but preferred to make a peace sign for everyone. But the two people evidently most happy were..... Bill and Kelly!



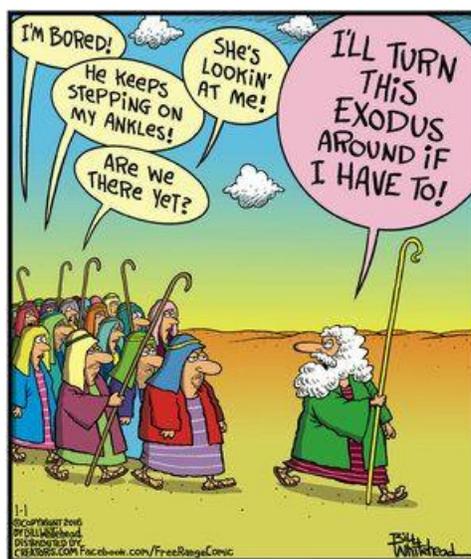
Thought you’d like to see these pics of your former Rector, Bill and kids who grew up at St. T.

My heart sings for all of you who were able to get outside and enjoy similar things in tiny bubble groups.... And my heart weeps for those who are still totally isolating and waiting for more freedoms to come, at the RIGHT TIME!

Speaking of the Right Time.....

I was astonished in a bad way at the television pictures of people gathered in the park in Toronto on Saturdaythousands of them, almost packed on top of each other, no social distancing whatsoever. No masks that I spotted, although there may have been a few. The Premier opened the parks for walking, not stopping or sitting. And so many people simply didn't care. There was an Emergency Room doctor also on the news that day. He was in tears, hardly able to speak at his horror and sadness seeing that so many people did not care about the work that he and his medical colleagues are doing, the hours they are putting in, the risk to their own lives, the people who are struggling to stay alive.....did not care enough to practice safe procedures so that his emergency would not be filled quickly with a second wave of covid cases. It broke my heart to hear him. It's one thing if people don't care about themselves (a stupid thing, I think), but it is quite other to deliberately risk infection and be willing to spread it to your senior family members, or the young people at the cashiers in our grocery stores, or the merchant just opening a retail store, or all the nurses and techs and docs in the hospitals . Premier Ford did not say "Shame! " out loud, but his eyes sure did.

Caroline sent in a cartoon of another time that people were misbehaving very badly, and risking losing their freedoms due to complaints and disobedience of authority. Seems the more things change, the more they stay the same.....



On a Lighter Note:

- Two priests were riding double very fast on a motorcycle. They were promptly stopped by a policeman who said, "What do you think you are doing? What if you have an accident?"

The pastor driving said, "Don't worry, Jesus is with us."

"In that case," the policeman said, "I have to book you. Three people are not allowed to ride on a motorcycle."

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- God is talking to one of his angels. He says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"

The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says, "I think I'll call it a day."

Your Scripture for Today: Proverbs 3: 1-12

1

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,

2

for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write
them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

9 Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with
new wine.

11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,
12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Some of our readings and homilies lately have been focused on things we can do to honour and serve Jesus. In our being and in our doing. Long ago Solomon wrote many proverbs to set forth what is essential to living a good life, being just, and developing holy habits and character. Our selection this morning is about such things. It begins, as did most holy writings, with the words “My son.....and ends with “the son He delights in”. Know for certainty that “my daughter” is also addressed and delighted in. There is no need to go over these proverbs in great detail. I think we all know exactly what they mean. Yet we can go a bit astray if we see each of these as promises rather than outcomes or conclusions. For example, vs 8...not every human being who is humble and seeks God’s wisdom will never get sick....the Scripture says that doing that will lead you in ways that will promote bodily health. Similarly, not everyone who tithes or gives generously is guaranteed prosperity, but honouring God in that way will lead you into right relationships with others, honest dealings, and make earning what you need for grain and wine more attainable. Beyond those few words, I prefer to just give you a prayer from the Barclay Prayer Book¹ which puts into our common English most of what Solomon

¹ A Barclay Prayer Book, William Barclay, Westminster John Knox Press,2003

intended in these few verses. Proverbs is wisdom in a time capsule....good for our learning and our living in our own time as well.

Prayer:

Eternal and ever-blessed God, equip us
Not only to see but also to attain the ideal.

Grant unto us,

The wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to do it.

The clear sight to see the right way, and the perseverance to walk in it.

The vision to see the ideal and the discipline to toil toward it.

Help us

Never to be satisfied with words without deeds;

With plans without performanve;

With schemes without reults'

With dreams without toil to make the dre4am come true.

Teach us

That the way to the stars is always steep;

That sweat is the price of all things precious;

That there never can be any crown without a cross

So make us willingly

To spend life that we may gain life, and to take up our cross and follow in the footsteps and commandments of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction:

Beloved, let us love one another as He has loved us, tend to our neighbours' needs as dutifully as to our own, create the peace we wish to live in through goodwill, compassion, mercy, and justice. Then we shall live pleasantly within the Will of God. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, for ever and ever. Amen.

Judie+