

A Virtual Happy Birthday
To Priest Associate
Rev. Barbara Graham+

Rev. Barbara is Gregory's godmother. We couldn't be together, so the kids, Bill, Kelly and I had cake in her honour (yummy) and candles for birthday Pentecost fun.

From all of us, Barbara, hope the next year is filled with good things!



COOP'S SCOOPS # 48

Monday, June 1st. 2020

Good Morning....it's a pretty nice but cool day, beginning a brand new month. June has always been one of my favourites. Three things about June that make me happy? The lake warms up enough to go swimming, the leaves are in full leaf and the strawberries start to grow, and school lets out for the summer! This year, things of course are different. There are also things that make me sad....all the brides and grooms that had been looking forward to their June weddings, no barbeques with lots of friends in the warm lake, and school's been out forever it seems! So we must simply make the best of it, and somehow find a way to make this June of 2020 special, and enjoyable for ourselves and for those we love. IT'S A CONTEST! Please email me your ideas of what special things you want to do while following covid restrictions that would make this June a wonderful thing to remember. Then do one. Send me just an idea for others to do, or a picture or a paragraph to describe what you have done. **THERE WILL BE PRIZES!** Deadline is June 21st!

From our Metropolitan and Archbishop +Anne Germond:

On a Summer Sabbath Rest : A letter from the Ontario House of Bishops to the faithful in Christ

June 1, 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

What a true blessing it was to join together from all parts of our vast ecclesiastical province for a special online worship celebration! On the Day of Pentecost we are reminded that God's love has been poured into our hearts, and we pray for the Holy Spirit to come and renew the face of the earth, perhaps most especially during this time of pandemic. Strengthened by the knowledge of God's abiding love and renewed by the Spirit, the provincial House of Bishops is calling on the parishes of our dioceses to observe a sacred sabbath rest over the summer months so that we can be renewed for mission and ministry in this new season of evangelism and discipleship that is emerging for our Church. The past three months have been difficult as we journeyed through a time of wilderness with the closure of our church buildings and as we have creatively adapted our ministries to respond to the emergency situation. Inspired from the witness of scripture, a time of sabbath rest invites our clergy and lay leaders, as well as the whole Church, to take time apart from our usual patterns in order to bring renewed energy and knowledge and skill to the practice of ministry. What this means is that regardless of where the Government of Ontario is with its reopening plan, our churches will not be reopening for in-person worship until at least September. This decision was made in consultation with public health experts as well as our diocesan executive officers and chancellors, with the well-being and safety of all our parishioners and the communities we serve uppermost in our hearts and minds. Online worship services and our critical food security and other essential outreach and community ministries taking place in our buildings will continue, as they have been in recent months. We are so grateful for all those enabling such ministries of praise, love and mercy during this pandemic. As Anglicans, we have

been blessed by our church buildings, legacies handed on to us by faithful stewards who have gone before us. Now we have a rare opportunity, while we are worshipping outside of them, to prayerfully explore new and creative ways to use them, as reimagined vessels for ministry in the months and years ahead. This sabbath time of rest, reflection and renewal, while we wait to be back in our cherished and familiar sacred spaces, offers us an opportunity to discern what our worship patterns, stewardship practices, and parish ministries might look like going forward. 2 To help with this, in the coming weeks we will be releasing a one-page framework document which will outline the cautious three-stage measured approach we as Anglicans in the ecclesiastical province of Ontario will undertake collectively as pandemic conditions in our communities warrant the eventual safe reopening of our church buildings. For now, please know that you are held in our prayers unceasingly, and we are deeply grateful for the generosity, innovation and faithfulness that has been so richly demonstrated across our province. As we weather our current circumstances together, let us seek to be the face of Christ in the world in a renewed and faithful way, buoyed by the Spirit of the Living God which falls afresh on us each day. May God’s deepest peace be with you.

Faithfully yours, +Anne Germond, Metropolitan and Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee On behalf of the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

We now know that there will be no public worship for the summer in the Anglican churches of our Province. We can look forward to the coming information regarding how to refocus, reflect and renew ourselves, while preparing for renewed worship together in the fall. The Holy Spirit

will be with us!



For your Smile of the Day, please go to the address below sent to us by Alva. .
<https://m.facebook.com/SchlegelVillages/videos/1289516991388394/>

Scripture of the Day: A collection of verses regarding Justice

Amos 5:24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Isaiah 30:18 Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.

For the LORD is a God of justice.

Blessed are all who wait for him!

Zechariah 7: 9 “This is what the LORD Almighty said: ‘Administer true
justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.

Homily:

What a week of violence we have seen on our televisions and newsfeeds this week, stemming from the death of George Floyd, a death for which one officer has been charged with murder/manslaughter, involving four police officers in Minnesota, one of whom knelt on the neck of a handcuffed man until he could not breathe and died. People are calling for charges for the other three officers as well who appear to have done nothing to stop the atrocity. The officers – all white- the deceased- African American.

This is not the first crime of its sort, either in the USA or in Canada, but the sheer bald-faced cruelty of it; the placid expression on the alleged killer’s face, and the shock of seeing it happen on video has made it so very compelling. Protests have erupted, as they should. The majority of them have been peaceful, focussed on change, expressing anger and sadness verbally by not violently. Other protests have been violent – where protesters have destroyed businesses, looted stores, burned buildings and vehicles, and where the riots have resulted in the loss of an eye for a newswoman, the deaths of at least three other people, and multiple injuries. We see groups of people looting and rampaging and

fighting in the dark hours, and groups of people cleaning up, working together, rebuilding places in the morning hours. This tragic death and the resulting chaos is the fruit of uncivil society and racism and anarchy over many many generations. It has to stop.

People tend to throw up their arms, and say “How? How can it ever be stopped?” Well, one man figured out a way. And put it into practice. And stopped it, if only for a morning. He is the Sheriff of Genesee County near Flint, Michigan. I watched and listened on CBC as this Sheriff and his officers removed their heavy protective gear and put aside their weapons and stood there in black police tshirts amidst a huge crowd of people out to protest in front of the police station. He said something like this: People, we are not here to hurt you. We love you. That officer over there is always hugging people. You’re here to protest, you brought your kids and your dogs....let’s take this protest and make it a parade!” And the people yelled and clapped and whistled, and cheered. And those protesters, and police officers marched together in a parade celebrating Mr. Lloyd, lamenting his death, and committed to making a new society where racialized cruelty and death would not happen again.

I thought to myself “I’ll bet that Sheriff is a follower of Jesus; he was offering compassion, mercy, and yes JUSTICE in a tangible way to people who had come together to oppose him and his officers.” The resulting “parade” was one full of black people, indigenous people, white people, other ethnicities people.....just all “human” people (oh, and some dogs of course, but the pet kind, not the “sic em” kind).

My message is not a political one....it is simply to remember that our God is the champion of justice. The One who makes justice and mercy kiss each other. As His people in our own neighbourhoods, what can we do today and tomorrow and so on to make justice a reality; to work for equal opportunities for the marginalized in any way; to call down racism whenever it raises its ugly head; to value every life, and to protect all of our children no matter what? No one can do it all; but we can all do a piece of it. And there will be no real peace, until we do.

Pray God, it will be so. Amen. And bless that Sheriff Chris Swanson’s socks right off! Amen.

Prayers for Today:

O Lord our Creator, by your holy prophets you taught your ancient people to seek the welfare of the cities in which they lived. We commend our neighbourhood to your care, that it might be kept free from social strife and decay. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create here a community of justice and peace where your will may be done; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BAS, pg. 680)

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon those in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their ocnstant companions. Have mercy upon us and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone of us mayu enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of this land; through your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (BAS 679)



Toronto Star editorial cartoon

If he had some Lysol wipes in a large can, I'd be there!