

Coop'S Scoops #57, Thursday June 18, 2020



This is a picture of the Longest Day of the Year at the North Pole on June 21st. That's coming up this weekend. My mom used to agree that it was certainly the longest day of the year for her, as she was busy giving birth to me on that date. That is NOT a plea for cards and emails.... Just a sign of how

time changes, light and darkness change, people are born, and people die, the seasons make their great rotations, and life continues through the power and the majesty of our God. Covid is not the end...it is part of the continuing process. And the purposes of God move forward to bless our Earth, our country, our communities, our homes and our churches. This picture of sun and moon together also reminds us that there can be joy in the midst of sadness, and indeed sadness in the midst of joy. **We need to rejoice**

with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and let others do the same for us!



We correctly remember the rainbow as God's promise given to Noah to never forsake the earth, to sustain His world through all manner of things. Now I love rainbows, but this shot of the aurora borealis with the first moon of summer also speaks powerfully to me of the majesty of our God as witnessed by His creation.

Mag's Tags: (Deacon, Rev. Margaret Morrison+)

Some good sayings:

If speaking kindly to plants helps them grow, imagine what speaking kindly to humans can do.

Acting perfect in church is like dressing up for an x-ray.

When a train is going through a dark tunnel, you still trust the engineer

Don't like organized religion? Don't worry, we are not that organized.

A Bible in the hand is worth two in the bookcase.

Love is not what you say. Love is what you do.

If you are helping someone and expect something in return, you are doing business and not kindness.

Come to our church picnic and ketchup with Jesus. Lettuce praise and relish him.

National Indigenous Day of Prayer: June 21st 2020

This Sunday is the National Indigenous Day of Prayer. It is a day to celebrate the cultures, customs and gifts of Indigenous people in the church and across this land once known as Turtle Island, now known as Canada. There will be a morning broadcast from the diocese at the Cathedral with National Indigenous Archbishop +Mark MacDonald preaching. A national celebration also under the leadership of Archbishop +Mark will be broadcast online at 2:00pm.

Covenant Collect, Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen.

The children in the picture are doing a dance wearing jingle dresses. These dresses were designed as a healing element of dance during the Spanish Flu pandemic. Many indigenous women and communities are creating and wearing Jingle dresses as a healing response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well. The children of St. Luke's wore them every National Aboriginal Day in my parish In Thunder Bay. Their eyes twinkled as much as the bell's jungled!



Some Fun for Today!

First of all, I am separately sending a great song that many of us will relate to, sent in from Paul LeMay, entitled "Searching for my Glasses". Always! And generally everything else as well.

From Jane Lever:



From Peter: Bulletin Bloopers

- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things nor worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands!
- Don't let worry kill you off! Let the church help.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility. (read that last word carefully!)
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation could lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast net Sunday!

LAST CALL FOR PHOTOS OF YOUR DADS FOR OUR FATHER'S DAY SCOOPS ON FRIDAY. JUST EMAIL THEM IN. THANKS.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 93

The Lord reigns/ he is robed in majesty; The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength. Yea the world is established, it shall never be moved; thy throne is established from of old; thou art from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their roaring, Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty!

Thy decrees are very sure: holiness befits thy house, O Lord, for evermore.



Homily:

In the midst of chaos in every generation; in the midst of violence and injustice; in the midst of world pandemic, it helps to remember FIRMLY that God is King. Whatever stability the world has, is a direct result of God's rule. God has made it plain to all His subjects that the way to exist in stability is to live life according to His commandments. He reigns. Because of His rule, and the limits and boundaries he established at creation, our beautiful planet does not drift like dandelion fluff in a universe full of perils and threats. We do not speed headlong into blazing suns or even black holes. Our earth is stable in its relationship to all of God's vast recreation.

Because of God's rule, and the limits and boundaries He has established for human behaviour, evil, oppression, anarchy and greed will not utterly destroy the peoples of this earth. They could! Such things - left un-confronted, un-named, and with no faithful people of God to oppose them – could one day result in human beings becoming as extinct as the dinosaurs. That is not God's plan. "Holiness befits Thy house" is not just a description, it is God's action plan to overcome evil. His house is not a church building; it is His people. People who have been given what they need to be holy. The Ten Commandments, properly lived out. The Beatitudes in full expression. Those, empowered by the Holy Spirit, could a beautiful and just society.

Properly lived out? Fully expressed? Our God knows how we try to do that, and also knows our weakness and frailty when faced with inner and outer temptation and strife. That is where Grace comes in. All welcome. All loved. No exceptions. That is where OBEDIENCE begins... because we are loved, we can live in the power and the mercy and the transformation that comes from God.

Therein is the antidote to the evils in our world, in our country, in ourselves and in our social and civic oppression of others. You cannot say “ I love you and respect your dignity” while kneeling on the neck of someone God loves every bit as much as you -or your spouse or your children. People of faith who trust in God must become people who love All who, and All that, God loves.

Despite the waves of oppression, roaring waves of war, mighty roaring thunder of multiple evils and injustices which assault this world, God’s rule is stable, and enduring and established. God’s will to establish good defeats the chaos of the “watery abyss” of the seas.

People everywhere, of all or no faiths, are clamouring right now to find the way out of injustice and into equality; out of violence and into stability, out of racism and into inclusion and dignity. At this time, as it has been at all times, the way out and the way in are clearly revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Repentance and Transformation. Jesus Christ said “ I am the Way, I am the Truth and I am the Life”.

So having written all this philosophizing and exhortation, what I really just want to say again is: “Follow Him” and “Don’t Be Afraid”. Could have saved a lot of toner! May God make of this whatever He wills. And bless you all.

Judie+

Prayer:

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessings in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to command. (Liturgy of St. James)
2. God be merciful to me, a sinner, and establish in me the work of Thy hands.

3. A Prayer befitting holiness:

Clean out, O God, the inner stream of my life: all the duplicity, all the avarice, all the falsity.

Search out, O Lord, the hidden motives of my live: all the conceit, all the anger, all the fear.

Root out, divine Master, the destructive actions of my life: all the manipulation, all the scheming, all the guile.

May the operations of faith, hope, and love increase in everything I am, and in everything I do.

- *(Richard J. Foster, Prayers from the Heart, Harper Collins publications, 1994)*