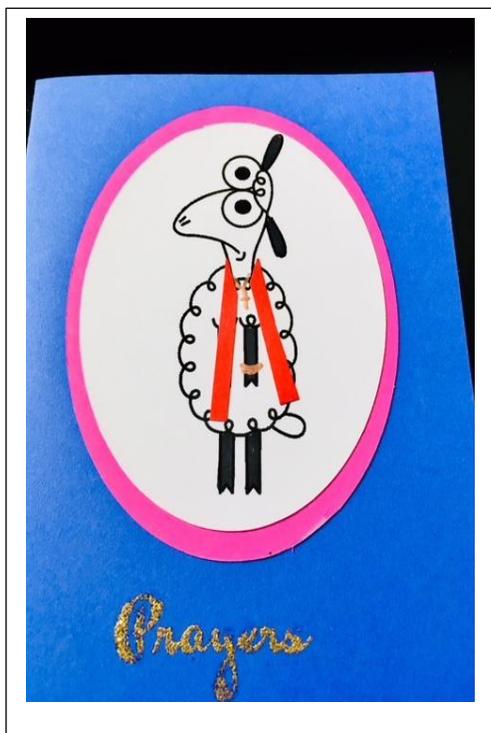


Coop's Scoops #60, June 24, 2020



This picture pretty much reflects my current state of mind! Puzzled and filled with logs of questions! After two Zoom meetings this week with our faithful and beloved Archbishop+Anne, I'm a little waterlogged with details.

Last evening's Zoom focused on the steps that need to be taken to ensure a safe reopening in September. Outdoor services are not being recommended during the summer, especially in this area where folks who are so welcome guests arrive from areas which are still provincial hot spots for COVID. We are being encouraged to stick to the social Bubbles we already inhabit Ten or less people and only one bubble. See my sheep's

confused eyes trying to figure out how that looks! Our Wardens also attended this lengthy meeting on behalf of all of us together.

Today's Zoom meeting was with a priest epidemiologist who gave us startling factual information about how present COVID still is, and how we must use great diligence in planning for re-openings. We will be provided with requirements and best practices during July. Services will not be 'the same' but wherever two or three are gathered.....we know the promise! Whatever it turns out to be like, I'm sure it will be wonderful. And for people who do not feel comfortable in returning in September, this Scoops' ministry will be continued on a smaller scale to keep us all together whether in the building or not. My friend Rose who visits each year from Thunder Bay made me a huge stack of handmade cards for my recent birthday. The card pictured shows her artistic touches adding a red stole and a cross to make the sheep into a Shepherd Sheep. Makes me smile! So it is with Rose's gift that I am sending out my prayers for you today. Blessings! Judie+

Some fun for today:

The little boy was helping his mom around the house, and he left the broom on the back porch.

His mother was cleaning up the kitchen that evening, when she realized that her broom was missing. She asked the little boy about the broom and he told her where it was.

She then asked him to please go get it. The little boy informed his mom that he was afraid of the dark and didn't want to go out to get the broom.

His mother smiled and said "The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid."

The child opened the back door a little and said "Lord, I know you're out there...could You please pass me the broom?"



A visiting Bishop went to check the microphone before the Evening Prayer service was about to begin. He tapped the microphone. Nothing. He blew on it. Nothing. And finally he said right into it "There's something wrong with this microphone" The obedient Anglican congregation immediately responded "And also with you!"

Scripture for Today: Mathew 19: 23-30

⁵ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

²⁷ Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

²⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife^[a] or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

What to do with the Camel

Guest Preacher: Annette Procunier

As we read through Mathew’s Gospel it is hard not to be perplexed at times with the parables and teachings that Jesus gives to his disciples and others. They seem often on the surface to be simple, using images of everyday life and referencing Old Testament scripture known to any devout Jew but typically they are complicated by Jesus’ interpretation. Often the parables have been used to explain a situation that has come about because of a question or challenge given to Jesus. The passage of Mathew 19 is just such an example. The rich young man who came to Jesus has left disappointed when told that he must give away his possessions in order to get into heaven. He is a man who has lived by the law, done good works and been faithful but he is told it is not enough. What a crushing blow it must have been. As he walks away Jesus says to his disciples “Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone rich

to enter the kingdom of heaven.” His listeners had all passed through the physical “Eye of the Needle” the narrowest gate in Jerusalem but none had brought a camel through it. It is not physically possible.

For me that is not good news. I live in the privilege of Canada with more than I need surrounded by prosperity and freedom from worry for my daily bread so the idea that I will have difficulty getting into heaven is not appealing. I feel like the young man must have felt. We are never told if he did eventually do as Jesus said but of course that is not the end of the story.

The perplexed disciples are aghast for they feel they have given up everything and yet Jesus is telling them it is not enough. As usual they do not understand what Jesus is trying to tell them and we can fall into the same trap.

Jesus often tells people to give up what they have and to follow him. He calls the disciples in this way. He sends them out two by two telling them to take nothing with them. He tells a man not to worry about burying his father but to come now and leave it all behind. That really is the point. Come now and focus on Jesus and his teaching. The difficulties and riches of the world will take care of themselves. Not that they will go away but they are not to be what holds us, tempts us and control us. Being rich is not what will prevent us from entering the kingdom of God, caring more for our wealth than our redemption will. Being rich can let us do a lot for the world we live in but that will not assure us of salvation. We are told continually from Old Testament times through the Gospels that how we use what we have is a symbol of our devotion not an act of salvation. The woman who gave her one penny is seen as giving more than the rich man because she gave all she had and he gives what he wants to give.

Jesus completes his teaching by telling the disciples that nothing is impossible with God and that is how salvation happens not by our actions but by our soul's commitment to God. Belief in God, forgiveness of our sins and faithfulness will redeem us. Our acts on this earth can be living examples of our faith but not faith itself.

The challenge will always be am I willing to walk through the "Eye of the Needle" and leave my camel behind of better yet give it away.



Prayer for the Day:

Lord Jesus, trying to put a camel through the eye of a needle is like trying to empty the ocean one cup at a time. It's like trying to be righteous all the time when we know we simply can't. It's like trying to work our way into Heaven. It is indeed impossible for us to do. Thank you, Lord, for your Gift not only of eternal life but of the Holy Spirit who creates in us new hearts; who transforms our minds and helps us to "leave our camel behind, or give it away". We have no need of anything but You, Your grace, Your mercy, Your Love. Amen. (Judie+)

Coming Soon: Weekly Guest Preachers Caroline Sokoloski, Deacon Margaret Morrison and others.

Blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you,
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face towards you
and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**