



Hello Everyone!

Another beautiful sunny day with warmer temperatures to remind us that spring is indeed here, albeit early on, that the sun and the moon and the stars are still doing their things, that the earth is getting a chance to heal a bit, with the cessation of many polluting activities, that life goes on and on and on and that even in times like this, the words of a 15th century mystic, Julian of Norwich, can still touch our hearts. An educated and wealthy woman who took to a monastic life, totally alone, praying for others, Julian suffered many physical illnesses yet rose from each with faith in Christ and gratitude in her heart. Her word to others was “ All things shall be well. All manner of things shall be very well. All manner of things shall be very well indeed”. That kept her going...and it’s a great small mantra for trouble hearts at any time.

Thanks to those who sent me encouragement to keep up with Coop’s Scoops. Thanks to those who have faithfully sent their offerings in the mail or through the door slot. Thanks to those who are finding the grace to be optimistic about the future even while missing visits from their families. Now I know that Catherine begins her day with Yusuf/Cat Stevens singing Morning Has Broken, with a beautiful video accompaniment. I know that Pam recalls a special reach out that united years of time and still blesses her. I know that when I was praying for you all in your pews, and visualized Jane and Jim, that very time happened on their 60th wedding anniversary. Then there’s Cathy who delighted me that she finds suddenly and surprisingly that the still small voice in her head has begun reciting Bible verses. Including “Be Still and Know that I am God”. I know that others are thankful for the special community we are at St. Thomas’s and Lake of Bays...we are a family of faith whether or not we can be together physically. So...I have lots

of hope and joy in my heart today and I hope you do too.

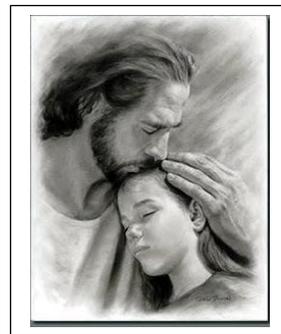


There is much sadness in many homes in our country today, and we must not minimize the difficulties or the challenges or the grieving. Yet we must not brood over them so that we are overwhelmed and isolated from one another (BAS Pg 603) in ways that are deeper than physical absence. With hearts united, we are linked together and we can be strong.

Here's a great example of courage and creativity and strength. Some mom in Bracebridge, loving her smaller children now out of school and trying to find fun activities for them, had a great idea. And she made it happen. Wish I knew her name, so I could praise her personally. She got online and asked others to make hearts and put them in their windows. Now when she takes her children on walks they have a Scavenger Search, peering at windows everywhere to see who can find the most hearts. Hearts are appearing all over town, and so are children happily finding them in safety and in fun. Why not make a couple of hearts today and put them in your window.

No big sermon today. Just some simple thoughts to help you dwell in hope. And a simple prayer from the heart of one who is with you every single day.... that's me. You all know the tune, just the words are changed.

Jesus loves you, don't you know?
I pray for Him to tell you so...
All of us to Him belong
When we're weak, then He's so strong!
Let Jesus love you, grasp that He loves you,
Rejoice that He loves you
Then let some others know!



That's Jesus! And yes, He really loves you. No matter what. In our living and in our dying, He loves us more "than we can ask or imagine". Listen to what He said in John 15:9 :

"Just as the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love"

Just the same way, just as much as the Father loved Jesus, that is precisely how much He loves us in every way. There is no greater gift. We live and breathe and have our being in that Love forever.

Prayer: O Lord, show me today where hope and love and faith are needed, and use me to bring them to those places and those people. May I this coming day be able to do some work of peace for Thee. Use my heart to help and my voice to pray. May your Kingdom come. Amen.