

Coop's Scoops #91 Tuesday September 25th 2020

What a joyful weekend I had representing all of you! First was the marriage of Carol Hazledine and Peter Comber on Saturday at their home on N. Burnt Island Road, Baysville. Got to wear my robes and my fancy mask that has a heart jewel on it and got to preach a short homily and do the sacred work of "marrying". The weather held up beautifully, the setting was delightful, all who witnessed the vows were full of blessing and love. So that all fed my soul. Then Monday, I was honoured to do the interment of Malcolm Payne out at Christ Church, Gregory. Please keep Joyce in your prayers as she continues to move in this journey of grief. Again, the family gathered were full of faith, and blessing toward one another. Psalm 133:1 says that where brothers (and sisters) dwell in unity (going through all the cycles of life), it is like the oil of gladness running down the beard. Well, I don't have a beard (yet...my grandchildren tell me!), but I surely felt anointed in both of these places and with all of these people. And I felt the presence of all of you, the family of faith, who offer support and love at weddings and at funerals. What did they used to say "Hatch, Match, Batch and Dispatch"!

While preparing for Malcolm's interment I came across a much loved poem by Thomas Troeger, in my favourite poetry book "Borrowed Light". It reminded me of how Malcolm had lived his life, so I included it in the short service. I am also including it here, because it spoke to me of the present day, where we are searching to retain what is essential, navigate what is difficult, and be supportive of all trying to find their way. Hope it touches your hearts!

**When there is no star to guide you,
And you cannot wait for day
And your ancient maps provide you
Only hints to find the way,
Keep within each other's calling
Mark each time you make a turn,
Shout for help if you are falling,
Tell each other all you learn.**

Thomas Troeger in

"Borrowed Light"

News from the Parish:

The Morning Prayer service offered by Rev. Margaret Morrison out at St. James, Port Cunnington (posted on the Deanery of Muskoka facebook page) has been really well received! 44 viewers and counting! Unfortunately between the wind

and interesting digital things, there were hauntingly strange noises that obscured the voices occasionally. Who knows how these things happen? (Probably Cory knows!)

At any rate, it was so good to be together to make the video, and a great way to send love out to those from far away places who we missed this year because of border closures and cancellation of public worship services due to the pandemic.

God willing, we will be open for a Christmas Eve service come December.

Karen, Mike, Joanne, Rev. Margaret and I send out blessings to all.



A big virtual bouquet to everyone who filled out the St. Thomas survey regarding the re-opening of our building for public worship. The full results of the survey will be available on Thursday. Meanwhile the Wardens, re-opening coordinator and I will be meeting to address tasks that need to be done regardless of when we actually do re-open, and, as requested, planning to offer some week-day opportunities for faith to grow, and folks to get together in groups of ten or less. Keep tuned for the big announcement!

For ST. Ambrose worshippers, a reminder that there will almost certainly be a service at Thanksgiving, depending on how the pandemic is at that time, and getting the cleaning done. I am working on the actual service content, "choreography" and protocols at this time, and will be bringing that to your Wardens and Rev. Margaret in the coming weeks.

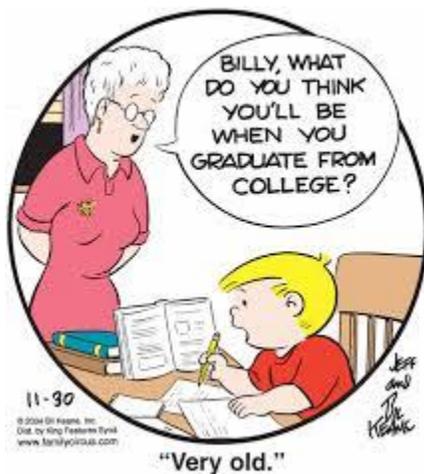
The Deconsecration of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Dorset, will be conducted by Archdeacon Kelly Baetz on Sunday August 30th (this coming weekend) at



11:00am outside the church building. Social distancing and mask wearing will be required. Also at least a boxful of Kleenex for all the tears that may flow freely as

this marvellous building which has seen countless weddings, and baptisms, confirmations, funerals, Eucharists, pot lucks and community events over so many generations is closed. The legacy of St. Mary Magdalene, however, will continue to bless the community and people scattered to many places, through the ongoing loving works and words of those who's faith has been nurtured and sustained in that place.

Some Humour to Help your Day Along:



Mommy Ate It

For weeks a six-year-old lad kept telling his first-grade teacher about the baby brother or sister that was expected at his house.

One day the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child. The six-year old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Furthermore, he stopped telling his teacher about the impending event.

The teacher finally sat down beside the boy and asked, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

Tommy burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mummy ate it!"

Scripture for today: 1 Chronicles 16:32-34

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord, for He comes to bring justice upon the earth. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!

Homily:

There'll be no history lesson today, no explanation of context and circumstance. Of course, this Scripture was penned for a particular people in a particular time, but as always, all Scripture is God-breathed and for all time, for our instruction,

and our faith and our progress in holiness. So it is for you and me today too for sure.

It seemed to me to be almost a command, rather than a hope or a prayer. It said to me “PAUSE....MARVEL!” Look at God’s handiwork and be amazed. Marvel. Be as joyful in thanking God, in praising God as a powerful sea roars, as a field of flowers can’t help but be exulted for beauty and colour and scent, as a forest is full of singing; bird song, wind moving the willow, little creatures mewling at little mothers, waterfalls cascading over ancient rocks.... That’s how I want to be able to please God. And to do that, I must pause....from work, from all that distracts me, from fears, from wounds, from happy times, from doing anything really at all. Yet my pause is not to stay empty...it is not pausing to enter a meditative state, it is not meant to be “forever”. It is a pause to look and see and marvel at the work of God right before my eyes. On Sunday, my new grand dog Mocha was sitting on the dock, looking out at the lake, smelling the water, absolutely still as a statue for the longest time, with the goofiest happy smiling dog face imaginable. He was consumed with what he was seeing. He had paused. To marvel. Until of course, a small hand reached for his leash, or a dragonfly buzzed him and he knew there was work to be done.....walk or snap at that fly... and he left his pause to start again.

Try to pause and marvel today at something. The pausing takes effort...the marvelling will flow.

It will do you good.

“Be still.....know that I am God” Psalm 46:10 ”....then sing your song of joy.

Today: A Prayer in Hymnody: # 381 Common Praise (vs 1,4,5)

Praise my soul the King of Heaven, To His feet your tribute bring;

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing...

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the everlasting King.

Frail as summer’s flowers, we flourish;

Blows the wind and it is gone;

But while mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on.

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the everlasting King.

Angels, help us to adore Him, you behold Him face to face

Sun and moon bow down before Him, dwellers all in time and space,

Alleluia, alleluia, Praise with us the God of grace!

PAUSE....AND MARVEL

Blessing for today:

As you pause and marvel at the handiwork of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, may you be blessed to see His handiwork also in one another; may you rejoice that you are a marvel of grace in His eyes, and in His Kingdom.

Amen.

Judie+



