

November 22, 2020

Good morning to all in the North Thompson Ecumenical Shared Ministry.

It is Sunday morning and typically we would be gathering together in the presence of Christ to offer our praise to God in word and music; to learn something of our walk as disciples of Jesus; to share our joys and concerns with each other; to come before God in prayer; and to receive the sustenance of the Spirit as we live out our call to be a household of God.

Typically. And of course we have once again moved into a time when "typical" is not possible.

This Sunday is known as the Last Sunday after Pentecost: The Reign of Christ. During the season of Pentecost we have heard stories of our spiritual ancestors in our scripture readings. We have listened to the stories of Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob, Leah & Rachel; Moses, the Exodus and the entry into the Promised Land. We have heard something of Paul's story as he supported young communities of faith in Rome, Philippi and Thessalonica. We have heard the story and teachings of Jesus as related by Luke. All of these stories are narratives in which faithful people are called to see the world in new ways, trusting that God is leading ... and sometimes leading into new territory - sometimes physical, always spiritual. And on this day, The Reign of Christ, we are reminded that all of this storytelling finds its fulfilment in Jesus Christ, who is imminent and deeply present to us but who is also the Lord of all creation.

We are not in typical times. On this Sunday, however, may we be reminded that as our particular story continues to unfold Christ is present. The poet Alexander Pope wrote "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." Today, may we know that Jesus is our hope and our life and know this deep in our hearts.

We don't know what the coming weeks will bring to us. Will the Public Health Order issued this past Thursday be extended beyond December 7? When will we be able to gather together again? How do we stave off feelings of isolation and anxiousness borne of these uncertain times? Much is unknown. Over the coming days, we will need to look at ways by which we might continue to feel connected to each other and be spiritually fed as communities of faith. There are a variety of ways we might employ to

accomplish this; and as we move forward please trust and pray that we will discern what will be most helpful for us, making use of resources within our congregations and resources provided by other congregations and the wider church.

Know that you are in my prayers. On this Sunday remember that Christ reigns and enfolds us. And in these "untypical" times, may we be granted the spirit of hope expressed by the 14th century mystic Julian of Norwich: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

Blessings to you.



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