

Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

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****Find us on Facebook "Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge"!****

Hello, all you pandemic-weary people.

It has now been a year since the Covid-19 pandemic was declared. It has been a year of so much uncertainty, fear, grief, and loss. It has also been a year when the goodness of people showed through so much. Now that people are getting vaccinated, it seems we can anticipate an end-point to all this some-time in the future.

Here at Grace and Deseronto United Churches, we have been impacted so much. All of our group activities, including public worship, has been suspended. Thank you so much for continuing to support the virtual worship videos; I am very grateful for the worship team who shows up faithfully every week to tape the worship service. I am also very grateful for Treasurer, Bert Needham, for steering us financially with great expertise during this stressful time.

The Board of Grace and Deseronto United Churches met recently, and after some thoughtful consideration, decided that we would not open up for in-person worship just yet. Although we are eager to get back into seeing our friends, and eager to be back in the sacred space, the board decided to take the road of caution. There was concern that the third wave of infections might overtake us, and we would have to close again. We are tentatively hoping we may be open for in-person worship in May, but that is not a guarantee.

In the meantime, our pastoral charge is teaming up with 3 neighbouring pastoral charges to present a combined virtual Good Friday worship this year. We did this last year, on very short notice, and it was well received, so we are doing it again.

If you happen to drive by our church on Easter, you will see the cross outside the front of the church transformed from



****Photo submitted by Rev. Elaine.****

An Easter Meditation

By Esther Lapp
Submitted by Fran Pringle

If we but had the eyes to see
God's face, in every cloud...
If we but had the ears to hear
His voice above the crowd...
If we could feel His gentle touch
In every Springtime breeze...
And find a Haven in His arms,
'Neath sheltering, leafy trees...

If we could just lift up our hearts
Like flowers to the sun...
And trust His Easter Promise
And say, "Thy Will Be Done."
We'd find the peace we're
seeking,
The kind no man can give...
The peace that comes from
knowing,
He died so we might live.



the purple cloth it has been wearing throughout Lent, to an image of Resurrection.

To close off, here are some of Jesus' last words of instruction to his friends: *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

Love is the sign that we are followers of Jesus.

Rev. Elaine

The Easter Symbol

By Esther Lapp
Submitted by Fran Pringle

It was the ending of a time and the beginning of a time. It was tears and it was hope. It was the crucifixion of Christ. The sky was dark with hatred and prejudice, and mankind seemed to be upon the darkest hour. Thunder rolled across the sky and lightening sliced crazily through the somber clouds. Some men rejoiced, others wept, and in mortal sense all men were at a loss. The forest was alive with beasts, their senses turned to something far beyond their realm of error in the air. The beasts converged upon the meadow. Once a grazing spot of tranquility, it now embraced the darkness. The rumbling of the sky was warning menacingly of a change. They crowded close, each a part of nature's scene. From field mouse to mountain lion, the herds began to grow in number. They communicated silently, the confusion and the fear always present in their eyes. Soon it was decided they must discover why the sky was angry. Could they be to blame for the holocaust upon the hill? They must send a courier. They would solve the mystery for themselves, but they must send him soon. They must know the reason for all the anger in the sky.

The meadow swiftly filled to its capacity with all God's creature, and they began to choose. What beast could complete this task? He could not be too large for fear of discovery nor too small to comprehend everything.

A judgement was reached. It was decided that the rabbit would complete the journey. His brown coat would not attract notice, and his speed would have the answer quickly.

The rabbit set about his missions with the speed granted to him by his creator. Through the forest, over streams, and down the hills through the heavy air he raced. His nostrils twitched with apprehension. Then he saw it in the distance, but what were those giant trees? They had no leaves and only one branch across the top. He sped closer, he must get a better look. The scent of death



Events for the Calendar

March 28th

Palm Sunday

April 2nd

Good Friday

April 4th

Easter Sunday

April 22nd

Earth Day – Snap a picture of you and your household helping to take care of our Earth, and send it in to the office via e-mail, Facebook, or a hard copy dropped in the mailbox. We would love to see and share what our members are up to!

May 9th

Mother's Day

May 22nd – 23rd

Victoria Day Weekend

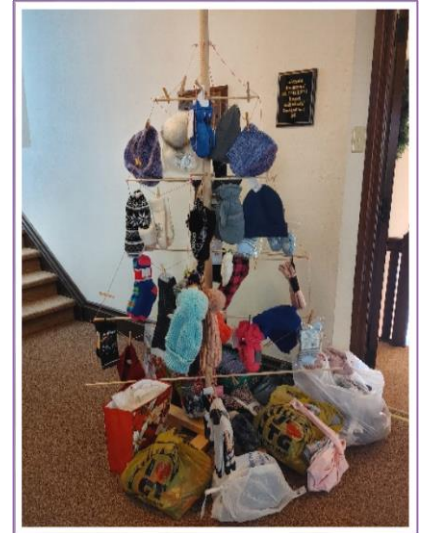
and evil pervaded his senses. He did not like the smell of man, a scent he had grown to fear. He travelled faster, now he could observe three trees in the distance, but men were a part of those trees. He was confused, his wonder was intense. He saw men laughing, women grieving; he saw the sky turn blacker as the thunder attained its peak.

He reached the base of the strange trees and crouched beneath the bush closest to the middle tree. He gazed upward, there was a gentleness and a sadness in the man's eyes. He did not fear this man. He knew he would cause no harm. He knew that mankind had erred, but he could not help. He glanced up again, it may have been because of an instinct or an inner sense glanced to all God's creatures that he knew this special man meant peace and love for all.

He remained motionless, his eyes returned again to the gentleman's gaze and slowly his fur began to lighten from brown to gray to white until was pure as snow. This was the sign – He knew it was! Man and beast alike could still have hope. He paused once more in wonder to look at the face. The eyes could almost speak, the rabbit understood the silent message. It was all too clear, a reminder of men's ignorance and helplessness, and the rabbit would be that reminder throughout all the centuries to come. He would be the special sign, he would represent this day. He began his journey back to the meadow and the anxious beasts. They must know that he knew. His coat was now a winter white. This would be the symbol and the proof that man and beast alike would share this day forever. And this is the story of the Easter Bunny.

Easter Dinner with MorningStar Mission

You are invited on Saturday, April 3rd to join MorningStar Mission for an Easter Dinner from home. The menu includes: ham, garlic mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole, a bun, beverage, a slice of carrot cake, and a Rice Krispie treat. Pre-Order your meal online at www.morningstarmission.ca or by phone at 613-354-6355. Pick up your order at MorningStar Mission between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., or have it delivered between 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Enjoy!!



Thank You!!

A BIG thank you to EVERYONE that participated in making donations for the Mitten Tree and the Reverse Advent Calendar. They were both a HUGE success!! We collected 11 boxes of non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank, and we filled our tree with clothing items. Great job everyone!

Another Big thank you to everyone that supported our Poinsettia and Calendar Fundraisers! We truly appreciate it!