

Musings from the Manse - Week 5

19/04/20

Easter weekend was so surreal for us this year and for so many other people. No church. No family get together. There has been much speculation as to when this lock down will end. Three weeks, six weeks or longer, who can tell at this stage. We will have to put our trust in those making such crucial decisions. We need to be praying for them.

Jill and I Face Timed our girls which was nice, and we had a Zoom chat with Jill's family Sunday afternoon. I think there were 7 groups. Zoom it's the latest thing now. Keeping families and friends in touch. On Thursday I had a minister's conference on Zoom. It was kind of good and kind of not so good. You are never quite sure who is talking, or when you can have a go, there are either silent bits or everyone talks at once. It is a skill in monitoring the flow of conversation I suppose. We will have to use the old radio protocol of 'roger over and out'. I have a neat trick on my computer where I can change the background image behind me. So, folks were amazed when I joined the conversation for a moment they thought I was in San Francisco sitting on a balcony with the Golden Gate bridge in the background. At least one person thought I was actually there I could not convince them otherwise! I wouldn't do that again.



Another inmate of my study Florence (*Phelsuma standingi*) Standings Day Gecko. Very colourful. She lives in a luxury bio active self-cleaning Terrarium. Three temperature zones varied light spectrums and humidity levels, and all programmed to a 24-hour cycle. Also, a stream of fresh running water. Oh, and it all mists over like a rain forest for half an hour at dawn and dusk.

Let's remind ourselves of the unfolding events of this Easter season.

Luke's account of Resurrection Sunday includes the story of two dazed and distraught disciples traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. It was Sunday, the third day of the most traumatic weekend of their lives, and they were on a roller coaster of emotion. On Friday these two disciples along with many others had witnessed the humiliating and violent death of their beloved leader, teacher and friend. That night and through the day on Saturday they sat with each other in utter despair. And now, on this day, a glimmer of hope had been introduced into the situation.

These disciples had lost so much more than just a friend. Their dream of what the kingdom of God would look like as they had imagined it...the hopes and dreams around which they had oriented the last three years of their life... the vision that had caused them to commit themselves to following Jesus...it was all gone. The encounter that took place between Jesus and these two disciples was completely life changing. Their eyes were opened, and they saw Jesus in their midst. Sometimes we can be so wrapped up in our sorrows and woes that we fail to see Jesus. It can be the same today we are fed up with social isolation and not attending church, but we can still meet with the risen Lord. Closed doors or imposed isolation will not stop Him.

Jesus has a desire to draw near to each of us wherever we are. This could be a good time to discover new ways to open up to Jesus' transforming presence on the road between the now and the not-yet, the unfolding future. It will become a life transforming experience.

Glorious God of all, You are the giver of new life, You are the one to whom we owe each breath, You are the reason for our hope.

Send your enlivening spirit, be present with us as we come close to You, seeking Your light to see what has been revealed, seeking Your warmth to set hearts aglow with Your love, seeking Your truth, that we might trust.

As we proclaim the Easter gospel, that in Your is life which conquers death, make us anew Your beloved children. Amen.