

'The Ambassador'

st. paul's
anglican
church

As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to bring our Lord's grace, love, and peace to everyone.

~ **Friday October 1, 2021** ~

National Day
for Truth and
Reconciliation

September 30th

Canada




EVERY CHILD MATTERS

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

September 30



Visit our website [stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca]
to read our Parish Response to the
Truth & Reconciliation Commission's
"Calls To Action"



**'Calls to Action' from the
Truth and Reconciliation Commission
(TRC)**

**Our Parish Response
September 2021**




In 2015, the Canadian government released its final report on the history and legacy of Canada's residential school system. From that report came 94 Calls to Action.

The Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) and the Parish of St. Paul's Anglican Church are committed to the Calls to Action which are relevant to our Faith Community here in Thunder Bay. It is a spiritual journey and we are called to enter into reconciliation with each other, Indigenous and settler peoples. Jesus calls us to be unified and to be one ~

"May they be one, as we are one."
John 17:11

May we dream and be open to the possibilities of building a better world for all of us. We are trying hard but we still have a lot to do. In 2019, the ACC created

A "GRACE NOTE" from thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

"Underestimating a child's ability to have a love relationship with Jesus, is underestimating GOD."

visit our website @ stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca and find us on facebook

Ambassadors
for Christ



St. Paul's
ANGLICAN CHURCH

1. Rector's Grace Notes ~

My Thoughts . . .

I have been spending a lot of time looking out of the window on the 4th floor of my Dad's room in the hospice at *St. Joe's*. The trees catch my attention and they are always blowing in the wind. There are 2 large blue spruce across the street and they grow straight and tall. Their uppermost branches reach out to each other and remind me of our need to stay connected to God and to each other.

I am very impressed by the quality of care my Dad **MO Nelson** is receiving. I see the hand of God in everyone, in many different roles, who comes into my Dad's room to clean, give him medications, bring him food, gently bathe him, and speak with him about his care.

At baptisms, I explain why the **scallop shell** is used to pour water on the candidate's head. The ribs on the scallop shell remind us of God's call to us to be open and caring. The ribs on the scallop shell reach out to the world and so do our hands when we turn our palms face up and open them. A fist is the antithesis of an open hand. We open our hands and reach out to others in the name of God.



Editor's Note: Archdeacon Deborah's beloved father **MO** was called home to Jesus this morning at 4:00am. He passed away on his grandson Thomas's birthday. A service is planned for Monday November 8, 2021 at *St. Paul's United Church*, where **MO** was also a member.

"Rest eternal grant to MO, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him."

Police Memorial Service Was Held At *St. Paul's*

On Sunday, September 26, we had the annual **Police Memorial Service** at *St. Paul's*. The service was **live-streamed** so you are still able to view it on our channel (*YouTube/St. Paul's Media*). We paid tribute to those in Canada who had died in the line of duty over the past two years.

I thanked the police officers for serving and for protecting all of us. Their work is hard, challenging, frightening and also gratifying.

We Offer **3 IN-PERSON SERVICES** Each Week ~

† **Saturday at 5 pm**

† **Sunday morning at 8:30 am and at 10 am**

The 10 am service will continue to be live-streamed (*YouTube/St. Paul's Media*).

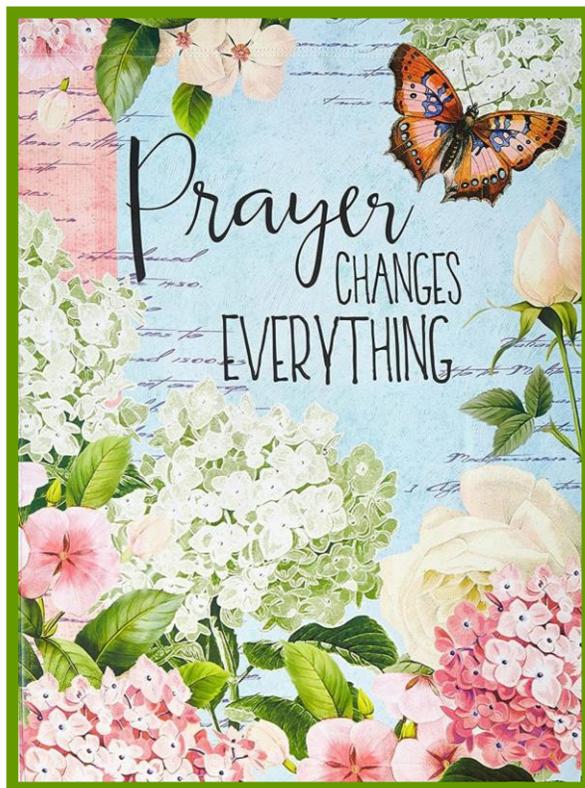
Editor's Note: Our **Wednesday 9:30 am Service** will be offered again **UPON REQUEST**. So if you are interested in attending this traditional mid-week service, please be sure to let us know! See Fr. Gordon's message below [#2].

Plus, Our 9 am Friday Morning **ZOOM** Worship Continues!

I invite you to join me for this 30 min. service. You are then free to leave the call or stay on for a check-in.

Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:
↓ **SAME LINK EVERY WEEK** ↓

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208698866>



-  **Topic:** Morning Prayer with the Parish
-  **Time:** Every Friday Morning at 9 am
-  **Meeting ID:** 822 0869 8866

OR Dial any one of these numbers ~

 1-[204]-272-7920  1-[438]-809-7799  1-[587]-328-1099 Meeting ID: 822 0869 8866

Taking Requests! Baptisms, Home Communion, Candles, Prayers

Please let me know if you desire **baptism**; wish to receive **communion your in home**; would like a **candle lit on the altar** Sunday for someone who has died or a significant celebration; or would like us to **pray for someone Sunday morning**. You may call/text me (**807-624-7161**) or email me (**stpauls.rector@shaw.ca**) to request any of the above.



Healing Prayer AVAILABLE VIA OUR 'PARISH PRAYER CHAIN'

The power of prayer to heal and to comfort is truly a blessing! We encourage you to request a **Healing Prayer** through our **CONFIDENTIAL Prayer Chain ministry**. The dedicated parishioners who undertake this special ministry offer up the names they receive in prayer continually throughout the day. Call/Text **Sandra Rejall at 629-3431** to leave a name; give as little or as much info as you wish. *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them."* (James 5: 14)



Good News! We're On TV!

Watch our weekly Sunday 10:00 am service on local TV, every Tuesday at 7:00 pm on **Channel 10, "Shaw Spotlight."** This Sunday's Service will be broadcast **Tuesday October 5 at 7:00 pm**. This free service from Shaw Spotlight is a blessing many of you have been able to enjoy.



watch live or ANYTIME
YouTube
St. Paul's Media

Our Sunday Service LIVESTREAMS ARE HERE FOR YOU!

We live-stream our **10:00 am Eucharist Service** every Sunday. If you can't come to church for any of our **4 in-person Services**, worship with us on **YouTube / St. Paul's Media** or watch the service on **Shaw TV Channel 10, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm**.

WE'ER OPEN! Our Office Is OPEN 10 am – 4 pm Weekdays ☺

We're open to the public! You'll find either your Rector or Parish Administrator here to assist you weekdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

[Editor's Note: Barring the occasional lunch break, dental appointment or pastoral emergency. ☺ Great to be 'open' again!]

The Office door will now be **OPEN** during regular hours, though I am **often on the phone or attending 'ZOOM' meetings**. You are also most welcome to email me (**stpauls.rector@shaw.ca**) or call me at 622-4945 (office messages) or 624-7161 (Rector's cell).



Archdeacon Deborah+

2. Wednesday 9:30 am Service Update

“I regret that, after trying for two Wednesday mornings to have the Service, to which no one showed up, I will not be continuing to offer the Wednesday Morning Service until requested.

*Blessings,
Fr. Gordon+”*

3. Bring Your 'Fur-Family' To Church THIS MONDAY OCTOBER 4 @ 7:00 pm

Bring your pets for a **personal blessing and a photo with our special guest “St. Francis”!** All pets are most welcome!

This year our Service will once again be held indoors, upstairs in the church. Please remember to wear your mask and to social distance.

This Service is a FUNdraiser for the **“Feeding Program for the Northern Dogs”** a local pet charity started by parishioner Leigh Neilson, so please do remember to bring your donation, too! Thank You! 😊



“WHO WANTS TO GO FOR A RIDE IN THE CAR?!”

BRING YOUR PETS to our St. Francis Day IN-PERSON

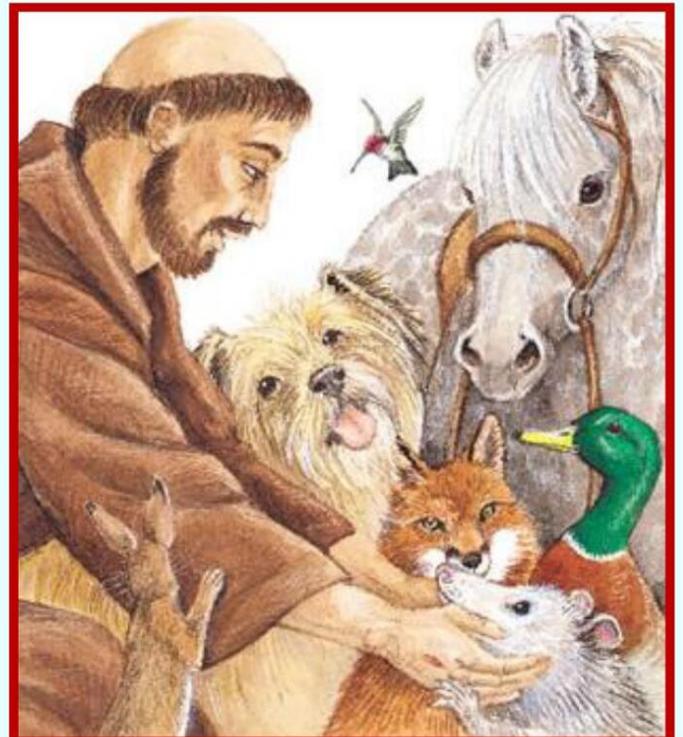
‘BLESSING of the ANIMALS’ SERVICE

MONDAY OCTOBER 4, 7:00pm

Take your pet's **Portrait with ST. FRANCIS** during the blessing

ALL ANIMALS WELCOME!
[Leashed or in carriers please]

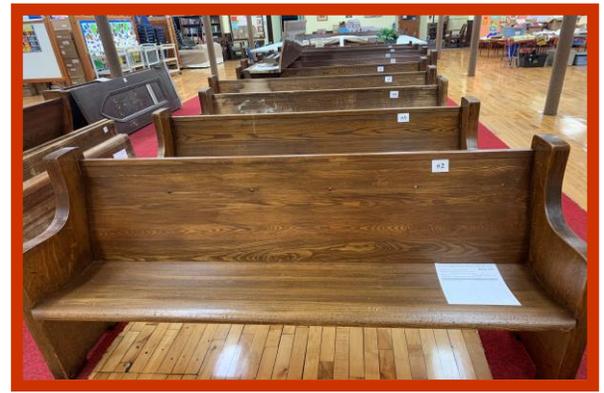
Freewill Offering FUNdraiser for “Northern Dogs Feeding Program”



4. **Church Pews Bids CLOSE @ NOON THIS SUN OCT 3!**

LAST CHANCE to place or update your bid and take home your piece of church history! **PLEASE COME DOWNSTAIRS after the 10am service Garden Fellowship to find out which pews have been awarded.** Remaining pews will be made available to the general public on **Monday . . .**

Christopher Willie, Property Co-Chair



5. **FREE To Good Home . . .**

Thnx to a generous donation we've upgraded our **Office Microwave**, so this one is looking for a new home. It's in good shape, with a white exterior, and works great. If you need one or know someone who can use it, please **JUST TAKE IT!** You'll find it on the table outside the kitchen. Enjoy! ☺



6. **My Sermon from Sunday September 26, 2021, 'Pentecost 18' ~ "The Courage Of Esther"**

*O Lord, uphold me that I may uplift you and may the words of my mouth
and the meditation of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.*

I am going to begin with a short quiz. There are 2 books in the Old Testament that are about a woman and are named after that woman. What are they?

(IF YOU ARE READING THIS SERMON IN 'THE AMBASSADOR' ~ PLEASE TRY TO NAME THE 2 BOOKS BEFORE CONTINUING.)

Yes, the books are **Esther** and **Ruth**. Both women were models of courage and of strength.

Our reading in the Old Testament is from the book of **Esther**. I encourage you to read all 10 chapters this week. It is a story of courage, of risk, of serving God and of salvation. It is a story of a beautiful young queen who risked her life to save the Jewish people. It is a beautiful story of God's faithful love and care for God's people. The story takes place in the 5th century BCE during the reign of King Xerxes who is also called Ahasuerus in the Bible.

Esther was an orphan who was raised by her older cousin Mordecai who adopted her and raised her as his daughter. Both were Jewish. Esther comes to the attention and the favour of King Ahasuerus and she becomes his wife and, subsequently, Queen. A man at court named Haman is a high official who takes a dislike to Mordecai because Mordecai will not bow down to him. As a result, Haman decides to destroy all the Jewish people in the territories belonging to King Ahasuerus. Haman casts lots to decide when all the Jews should be killed. At a huge risk to herself and to her own life, Esther decides to intervene with the king on behalf of all the Jewish people. Esther uses her position as queen to rescue the Jewish people but she could easily have been murdered for her





attempts at intervention. She is successful in getting the king to support her and to prevent the murder of all the Jews. In the meantime, Haman plans to have Mordecai hanged but Haman ends up dying on the same gallows that he had built for the murder of Mordecai. Esther saves all the Jewish people and Mordecai becomes a high official and replaces Haman. This story is filled with suspense, with humour, and with drama.

Ultimately, it is the courage of Esther that determines the fate of the Jewish people.

As a result of her fearless actions, the Jewish people begin the annual feast of “*Purim*” which happens to this day every spring. At this annual lavish feast, the Jewish people bless Mordecai and curse Haman. This is a story of salvation. The feast of ‘Purim’ means feast of “lots” which is what Haman used to decide when to have the Jewish people killed. Haman cast lots. Purim is known as ‘The Feast of Lots.’

This feast involves lavish food and lots of alcohol. All 10 chapters of the book of Esther in the Old Testament are read and there are traditional foods such as:

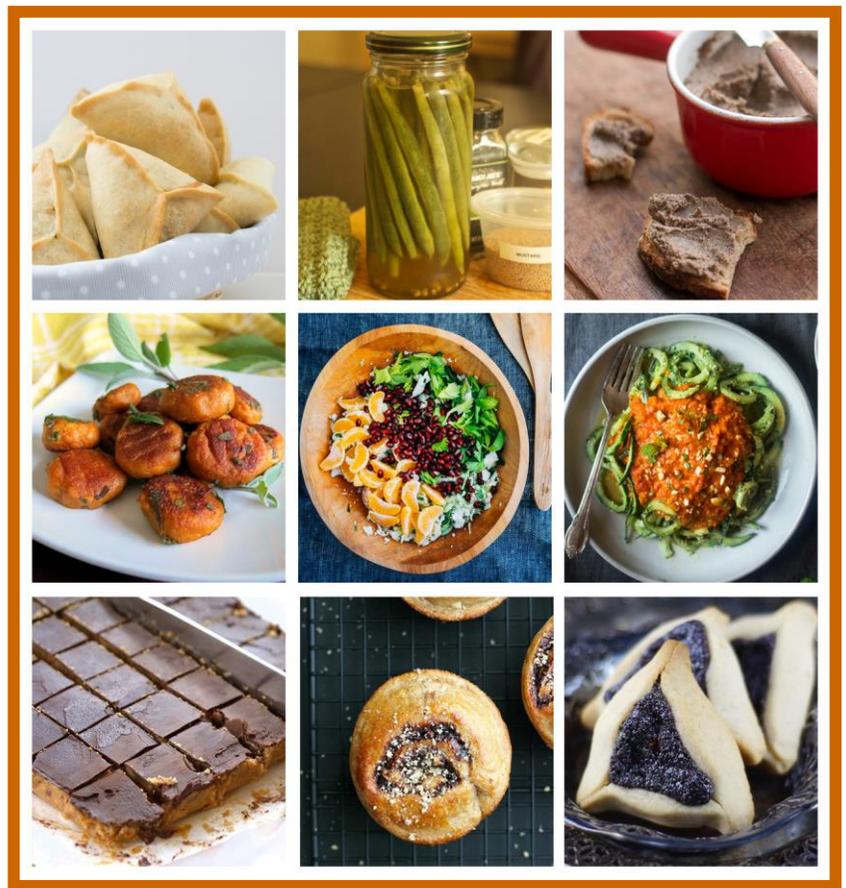
“Hamantashen” which is a 3 cornered pastry that represents the 3-cornered hat worn by Haman (or it might represent his ears.) The pastry is filled with jam or with cream cheese or with poppy seeds.

Other foods eaten at Purim include the foods that Esther would have eaten in the Persian court ~ Beans, cereal and seeds.

Turkey is considered to be a foolish fowl and it is also eaten because King Ahasueras originally thought highly of Haman and advanced him as an official in the king’s government. Sweet cakes with raisins are also a traditional part of the feast.

I am touched in the story of Esther by the unity of the Jewish people and the desire of both Esther and Mordecai to do everything they can, even at the expense of their lives, to save their people.

In the letter of James, James writes about the power of prayer and the power of unity. We are called to support one another and to pray for one another. Esther fasted and prayed for three days before she tried to get King Ahasueras to change his mind about the extermination of the Jewish people. James writes that “*the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*” That the church is a place of praying and praise. We visit the sick, we reach out to those in need and we sing for joy

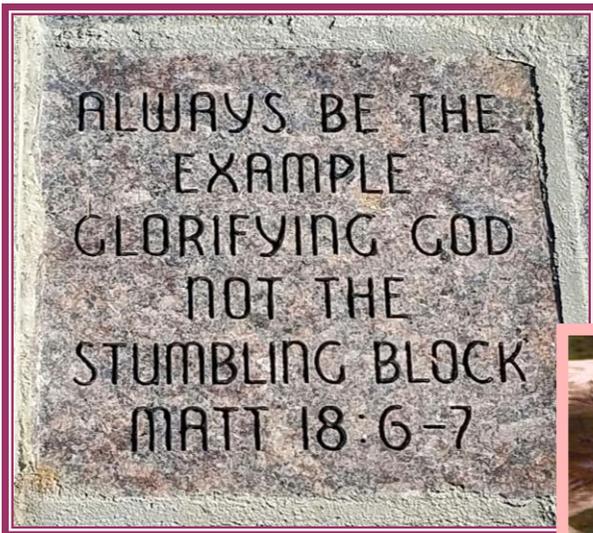


or at least, in today's COVID world, we hum for joy!

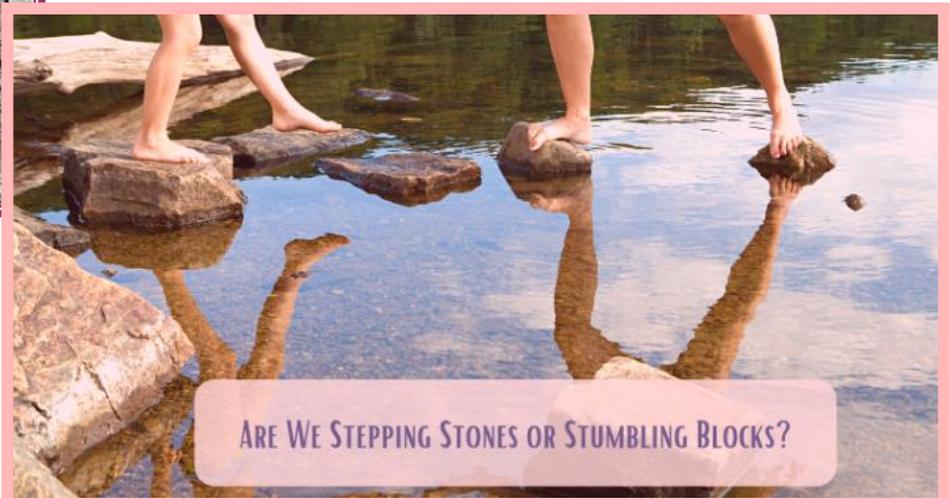
Anne Lamont is an American author and a Christian. In her book *Travelling Mercies* which is a collection of stories about her faith, she explains why she makes her son go with her to church. She says, *"The main reason is that I want to give him what I found in the world, which is a path and a little light to see by. Most of the people I know who have what I want ~ purpose, heart, balance, gratitude, joy ~ are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community, who pray, or practice their faith: they are Buddhists, Jews, Christians, people banding together to work on themselves and for human rights. They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle; they are part of something beautiful. I saw something once from the Jewish Theological Seminary that said, 'A human life is like a single letter of the alphabet. It can be meaningless. Or it can be a part of a great meaning.' Our funky little church is filled with people who are working for peace and freedom, who are out there on the streets and inside praying, and they are home writing letters, and they are at the shelters with giant platters of food."*

Then she says, *"When I was at the end of my rope, the people at St. Andrew tied a knot in it for me and helped me hold on."*

I like Anne Lamont's vision of the power of a praying faith community. I like the importance of her faith community to her. I love the way the children bounce down the aisle for the Children's Talk and are smiled at, prayed for, and upheld by each and every one of you. I believe that church is where we learn to practice the courage of Esther and where we learn not to be a stumbling block. She calls her church a "funky little church" and although I would not call St. Paul's a funky little church (!), I would call us real and raw and trying to be brave and to be kind. I can't thank you enough for the prayers and support you are giving to me and to my family as we journey with my 100 year old father in the hospice.



Jesus exhorts us to support one another and to not put a "stumbling block" before anyone. He is cautioning us to not encourage people to sin and to turn away from God. We must build up the body of Christ and not tear it down. We must support all people who do deeds of power in the name of the Lord, even if they worship differently from us and belong to a different Christian denomination. Jesus calls us to be inclusive and not exclusive.



I am so very thankful that the Canadian government just this year has legislated September 30 as the *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*. My heart aches when I think about an indigenous woman in this congregation who went to residential school and remembers how her long beautiful hair was cut off when she first arrived and how she was then forbidden to speak her language. We need to understand that hair holds spiritual significance.

I am very thankful that the Roman Catholic bishops have finally offered apologies to the Indigenous peoples of Canada for their treatment in residential schools. The bishops expressed their profound remorse and are committed to healing and reconciliation.

We all need the courage and the faith of Esther to fight against racism, to fight against cruelty, to fight against the enemies of selfishness and violence that disrupt our lives and bring us down.

We know that Esther lived hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus and yet her life is a model of selflessness and sacrifice. As Christians we are called to be obedient servants of God who give of ourselves and bear the name of Christ.

In the words of James, may we pray for one another and support one another in unity. In the words of Jesus, may you and I be at peace with one another.

Amen.

Archdeacon Deborah+

7. Scriptures for this Sunday October 3, 2021 ~ "19th Sunday after Pentecost"

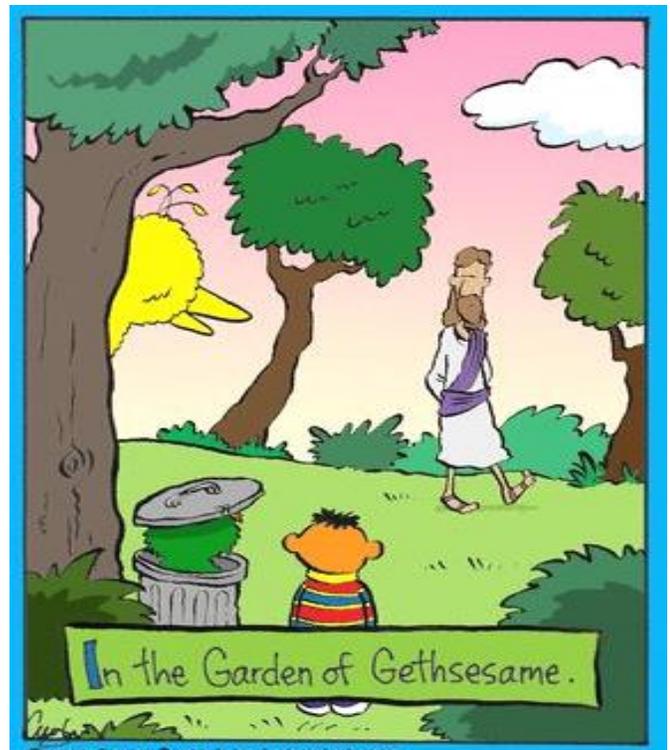
Rectors' Note: I encourage you to read these passages. If you don't have a Bible they are all accessible online. The church uses the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version).

- **Job 1:1, 2:1-10** ~ After losing his property and his children, Job loses his health.
- **Psalms 26** ~ The psalmist asks God for redemption.
- **Hebrews 1:1-4, 2: 5-12** ~ We are called to proclaim the name of Jesus.
- **Mark 10:2-16** ~ Jesus blesses little children.

8. The Last Laugh ~ "A cheerful heart is good medicine." [Proverbs 7:22]



Child-like
Faith
...



We must receive the kingdom of God as a little child.

Archdeacon Deborah+

"The Happy Rector & Archdeacon"