



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast for October 24, 2021

“Like trees planted by streams of water...”

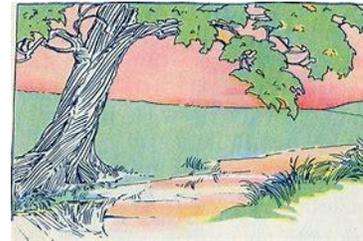
“They are like trees planted by the streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper.” Psalm 1:3, NRSV

There are many Psalms which use tree images, and most often healthy trees are meant to describe those people who follow the will of God. In Psalm 1 we read “Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked...but their delight is in the law of the Lord.”

So do these healthy trees “prosper”

Look at this extended version of Ps 1:3 as written in Jeremiah 17:8.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.



- *“Sending out its roots by the stream”*: roots are our grounding in God’s love for us.
- *“It shall not fear when heat comes”*: We can face our trials and challenges in this life because our eyes are upon God.
- *“Its leaves shall stay green”*: Our relationship with God as solidified through Jesus is life-giving.
- *“In the year of drought, it is not anxious”*: Even when there is little or no water, our deep roots will reach God.
- *“It does not cease to bear fruit”*: When we live in God, through Jesus, surrounded by the Holy Spirit, we will continuously bring forth good fruit.

May we all be like trees rooted solidly by streams of living water! How might we pray for this? Well...

What is a Ten Finger Prayer? (Creating our own prayer – mantras)

We all need encouragement from time to time. Several years ago a nun introduced me to “ten finger prayers” which use the fingers of each hand to represent one word.

You can make up your own for verses of scripture which are meaningful to you! For example, Ps 1:

“They ... are ... like ... trees ... planted ... by ... the ... streams ... of ... water” or

“Lord ... make ... me ... like ... trees ... planted ... by ... streams ... of ... water”

Please keep in your prayers ... students going back to school; those suffering from the pandemic.