



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

June 11, 2023

"The Earth is Full"

[The Lord] loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. [Psalm 33:5, NRSV]

"A Single Glorious Thing.."

...is the title of a reflection by Rev. Talitha Arnold, senior minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (UCC). This is one of the two articles that caught my attention today amidst many which, frankly, did not proclaim good news in any way. Rev. Arnold expressed the thought that it is difficult to believe everything we read in the Bible when we look at our world plagued with hunger, disease, war, natural disasters and so on. It is hard for us to see that "the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord." When does Rev. Arnold suggest? That we look for, find, and celebrate a single glorious thing. In a way, we have to teach ourselves to find joy in our lives.

Where Can We Find That Single Glorious Thing?

Sometimes it comes from spending time outdoors, paying attention to the simple things in nature. Helping others can shift our attention to something constructive, and often we are cheered by the reaction of those to whom we have extended an unexpected kindness. Helping ourselves, showing self-care, can change our view of how we feel and what the world around us has to offer. Being open to an article, book, conversation that catches our attention can lead us to more satisfying paths. That is what happened to me today: I read a news story about a "miracle."

The Headline Read ...

"4 Children, Including a Baby, Survived a Plane Crash and 40 Days Alone in the Amazon Jungle"

Briefly, the news story reported how four indigenous Colombian children were found alive in the jungle after a plane crash. The small plane had crashed on May 1, killing three adults, including the children's mother. The children, aged 13, 9, 4, and 11 months, were found by a military search team. The children were reportedly able to survive by drinking water from streams and eating fruits and berries. They were also able to build a shelter to protect themselves from the elements. The children's survival is being proclaimed a miracle.

We don't often see miracles like this one! Most of what we do see are small miracles, yet they are profound. These children survived by their knowledge and upbringing, care for each other, and the hand of the Lord! Truly "the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord."



Prayer box: let us continue to pray for Dean's grieving family; let us also pray for healing and comfort for those who are ill, including Robin, Joyce, and Andy P; let us give thanks for all the miracles we experience and for the Lord who walks with little children. Lord, hear our prayer!