



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

May 19, 2024

"The Good News: Anchored in Hope"

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain." (Hebrews 6:19)*

The Good News of Hope: We are assured through the Gospel, the "Good News," that God's love, grace, forgiveness, and transformation of hearts and minds inspire Christians to live a life as God would have us live, loving and serving God and loving and serving our neighbor, reflecting the love and care God extends to us. **THERE IS ANOTHER MESSAGE IN THE GOSPEL: GOD PROVIDES HOPE.**

This is beautifully stated in the Hebrews 6:19 in a great metaphor: hope as an anchor. Hebrews uses the image of an anchor and a sanctuary to describe Christian Hope. The Hope in Hebrews is the belief in God's promises and His plan for salvation. Hope is described as an "anchor for the soul," and like an anchor does for a ship in a storm, it provides us stability and security through the storms in our lives.

The phrase "the inner sanctuary behind the curtain" is a reference to the Holy of Holies in the Jewish temple, which was separated by a curtain and where God's presence was believed to dwell. This tells us that our Hope, anchored in God's promises, brings us into a deep, intimate connection with the divine. In modern times Hope may be found in a different form, like "Rainbows in Montreal."



Rainbows and COVID: During the first weeks of social distancing and stay-at-home orders due to the pandemic, there was a profusion of rainbows in Montreal. For several weeks the skies were filled with more rainbows than people could recall in recent memory. Before long the residents began greeting each other with this slogan: "Ça va bien aller," meaning roughly, "It's going to be fine." For readers of the Bible a rainbow has a special meaning: a promise made by God. *"Ça va bien aller, / It's going to be fine."* What a wonderful expression of hope! What Good News!

Final Comment: The Good News teaches Christians to have Hope during times of trial, and this Hope transcends our present circumstances and reminds us that God is constantly at work.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

May it be so. Amen - God's peace, Vance

Prayer Box: pray for healing for Holland, Gail, Barbara, Keith, Mia, Elizabeth, MaryBeth, Jazmine, Patti, Joyce, Joe, Florence, Debbie, and John; pray for those who are traveling, especially Maggie, and Vance, and give thanks for Bill's safe return; pray for those suffering from depression; pray for all struggling families; pray for all who grieve. *Lord, hear our prayers!*