

Grace Notes in Miniature

For Monday, May 11, 2020

Dear friends:

I've often remarked that, as we are made in the image and likeness of God, if God didn't have a sense of humour we couldn't have one either.

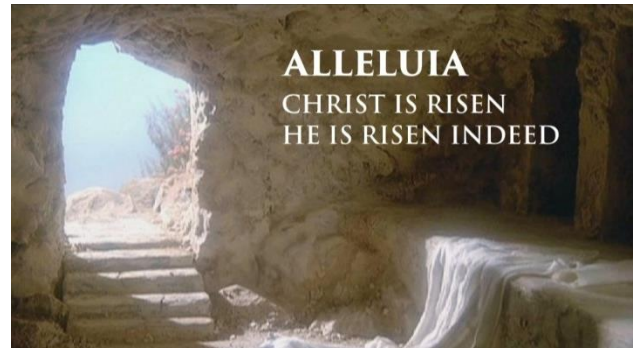
But I have to say, "Hey God, snow on Mothers' Day? C'mon..." It did make it easier to stay at home and not go out as I watched the occasional squalls from my window and then curled up with a book and a cup of tea. This is a rather slothful way to self-indulge as I was raised to never sit down without some handwork.

When I was about four, sitting at my grandmother's knee while she knitted socks, she said to me, "Now, Gilly, the Devil makes work for idle hands and you must never be caught being idle!" (see Proverbs 10:4-5). She then very patiently taught me how to knit in garter stitch, unravelling my messes and then teaching me new skills as I improved. I have learned to do bulky fisherman knits and fine baby clothes, knitted egg cosies and blankets, but always being aware that sometimes the work needs to be undone and knitted up again. There is a great sense of accomplishment in completing a project and an even greater pleasure in giving something that is the work of one's hands. It gives us an inkling into God looking upon creation and seeing that it is good. Isaiah 64:8 reminds us, "... O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Just as the potter may have to reshape the clay, we need to be open to allow God to "mold us and fashion us", as in Carey Landry's song, "Abba Father" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mDhpQSzEfM> One of my favourite



possessions is a beautiful prayer shawl made for me by a lady who faithfully attends our Board AFF retreats at Mt Carmel. It has a label which says, "crocheted with love", and the accompanying note told me that there was a prayer in every stitch. I think of that every time I wrap it around me. I need to remind myself more often of how much love God invested in every stitch of me! "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Today's Psalm in the Lectionary reminds us that for many, "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands." And we respond, "Not to us, O Lord, but to your name give the glory." Then the Gospel reminds us of these words of Jesus: "I have said these things while I am still



with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26)

At this time, when so many of our charities are struggling because their major fundraisers are being shut down due to social distancing, we can use our strengths and talents to help others. You may be aware of The Lighthouse, an organisation which provides loving care to many of our students and their families affected by the death of a parent or child. They have sent out this request for support and this may be a way to get ourselves moving, whether it is in laps around the garden – like 99-year-old British Honorary Colonel Tom Moore, or 101-year-old John Hillman in a Nanaimo Seniors’ residence – on a stationary bike, or up and down the stairs.

Join us for our virtual **Run4Lighthouse '5kAnyWay'** – walk, run, bike, swim, dress up...be creative! Nominate others to join the challenge and help us raise essential funds so that we can meet the growing needs for grief support. Complete the challenge between now and June 10th, register today at [www.run4lh.com!](http://www.run4lh.com)

It is wonderful, also, to be able to share in the talents of many people worldwide who are working to put a smile on our faces with their music. Thanks to Denise Kollee, our Chief Speech Language Pathologist for sharing this link: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=8EPcd0B5SNs>.

The Lord bless you And keep you
Make His face shine upon you And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you
And give you peace As we receive, we agree, amen

Chorus —
Amen, amen, amen

Bridge —
May His favor be upon you And a thousand generations
And your family and your children And their children, and their children

May His presence go before you And behind you, and beside you
All around you, and within you He is with you, He is with you

Original Song “The Blessing” by Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe and Elevation Worship.
Written by Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe and Steven Furtick

Another version involving over 65 churches and groups in the UK is at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U&app=desktop>

The Lord bless you and keep you,

Gillian

