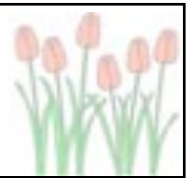




The Elim Scribe



Reflections from Pr. Bruce Kolasch

It's March (already!) and we are in the season of Lent—the lengthening of days. The days are getting longer. Yeah! March is also the month we return to Daylight Savings Time—Sunday March 8th. Spring is on the way. Maybe the piles of snow are receding even at higher elevations.

This time of year reminds me of the old stories and fables about kingdoms and landscapes turned into perpetual winter. They make great books and movies. Frozen I and II come to mind. The Chronicles of Narnia do too. Stories about lands caught in perpetual winter because of some evil person or power, and then through magic, divine intervention or the “magical power of unselfish love” the cold of winter gives way to the warmth of spring and summer. Those stories give me hope!

More than the lengthening of days and growing sunlight, Lent is the season of the church year for us to step back and contemplate our relationship with God, self and others. It is a time for reflection and returning back to God. Consider these words from Hosea 6:

Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is He who has torn, and He will heal us; He has struck down, and He will bind us up...Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; His appearing is as sure as the dawn; He will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.

Consider also this phrase from one of my favorite hymns, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

*Oh, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love,
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above.*

Regardless of where you are in life or what's happening in your world remember that God is with you and will not leave you. God cares for us individually and collectively. Let hope keep and uphold you! Take time as we go through the season of Lent and approach Easter to listen and reflect to God's still, small voice. And celebrate the return of sunshine and spring.

The "Signs" of Lent - 2020 ~ Vicar Lisa Mensinger



“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24



“And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you.” Exodus 12:13



“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” Luke 22:42



“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12



“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.” John 11:25-26

Church Women United - Greater Ogden Area

The World Day of Prayer celebration will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at the First United Methodist Church (1339 W 400 N Marriott-Slaterville.) Registration begins at 9:30am, cost is \$4 or cans of food, and the program begins at 10:00 am, followed by a Pot-Luck lunch. This month's outreach is collecting cleaning supplies for homeless vet organizations in Ogden. Please bring Clorox wipes, paper towels, sponges, "magic erasers", Windex, Lysol, Ajax, toilet bowl cleaner, laundry pods, dryer sheets , etc.

During the Sundays in Lent, a soup luncheon will follow the service each week. Please remember to sign up to bring soup, bread, fruit, milk or dessert; volunteer in groups if you would like to collaborate on an item for the luncheon. Thanks for your help!



Underwater Archaeology - Karlene Widner

Archaeology magazine was the source of an article about Egypt's submerged port city of Thonis-Heracleion. Located at the mouth of the Nile, it was the "gateway to Egypt for foreign travelers."

In the 2nd century BC, disaster struck the city. A tidal wave and devastating landslides caused by soil liquefaction following an earthquake brought down entire buildings, burying them beneath the waters of Aboukir Bay, thereby preserving much of them, including such amazing items as 70 ships, colossal statues, and a long, large temple.

New finds are adding more details to the picture of religious activity at the important city. In part of the big temple, researchers found architectural debris, ritual instruments and statuettes in pristine condition. They also uncovered a small round temple whose base had been discovered years before. There were indications that Athena and her Egyptian counterpart Neith may have been important in both temple rituals. There were many coins with the head of Athena as well as jewelry.

Almost three miles away, another submerged city (Canopus) yielded many interesting finds as well, including a Christian monastery.

Another fascinating article discussed the Sahara Desert which long ago was lush and green. Cattle grazing and vegetation loss may have been enough to tip the balance and lead to desertification.

