



Monday Musing: October 21, 2024.
Miracles...

How many times have you heard someone say, “It was a miracle!” Just what was that miracle they were speaking of? How was it making them feel?

When I look up miracle in the dictionary, it says, “An extraordinary and astonishing happening that is attributed to the presence and action of an ultimate or divine power.” But what if we believe the divine is not just beyond us, but with and within us too? Does that not make it possible for a miracle to happen through us? An early morning thought...

Perhaps a miracle might be that which has had the power to move us emotionally or spiritually, lifting us from our sadness, filling us with joy, or perhaps it is in the memory of a happening long ago that now brings happiness again. I think of the great times with my kids when they were young, and now listening to them as my adult children, especially as they goof around together, I experience a renewal of the happiness long ago entwined with the happiness today. Is this a miracle too? It feels like it.

We say God call us, gathers us together, upholds us through whatever it is that is happening in our lives, and sends us out to change the world. Perhaps God, with and within us, sends us out to make miracles.

If we focus our attention on the emotional and spiritual feeling that we experience attached to the amazing experiences of our lives, what does that do to the number of miracles that happen!?

Long ago, I had a wonderful, wise, and gracious professor for a course on theological reflection. She said to look for miracles. They happen all over. Look for the face of Christ in everyone you meet. He is there. Look for the actions of love of the Christ in others and yourself. That love is there. It is happening. She also said, “If we say birth is a miracle, is not death a miracle too?”

Births and deaths are times of enormous emotional and spiritual experiences within us. They are different emotions, but every birth is a death of something, even as every death is the birth of something new too. Every pregnancy ends with the birth of the child. Every death begins a new chapter for the living, and a new life for the one who has died, a new life of which we can only dream.

Wow. There really are miracles happening all around us.

Right now, the leaves on the trees are changing. It happens because of the breakdown of the chlorophyll due to changing temperatures, the reduced amount of daylight, and because the trees do not replenish the broken-down chlorophyll, they reveal the new colourful pigments that lie underneath. This is the scientific explanation. I like those. But this occurrence in the trees also brings joy to my heart and my soul. It lifts me up. I feel it moving my emotions and my spirit. In the death of the chlorophyll and the leaves and the autumn that will bring on winter, there is life stirred in the deepest part of me.

Oh, perhaps that's God's way of saying to my heart, "That's a miracle."

Peace to your hearts always and may you see and feel miracles today,
Rev. Deb Foster, Minister, St. Andrew's United Church, Markham
905-294-0351 minister@standrewsmarkham.com

Prayer

Holy God, beyond us, among us, between us, with and within us,
May the leaves of the trees as they change colours
Bring delight to our hearts and minds,
May they remind us that as they go, new life will be born in spring,
That with every ending there is a new beginning.
May we be open to the surprises each brings,
And know that miracles can be more than the unexplained,
Miracles are possibilities everywhere,
Miracles affect our hearts and our spirits, and our souls.
Amen.

Scripture this Week (from the lectionary)

Job 42:1-17	Job acknowledges God's power.
Psalms 34	Taste and see that God is good.
Hebrews 7:23-28	Christ, the permanent high priest.
Mark 10:46-52	The healing of Bartimaeus.

TR Question (theological reflection)

How do you know when a miracle has happened or is happening? How have you felt?
What are the miracles of your life?