

Monday Musing: October 26th, 2026.
Arcs…

Over the years, Karen and I have hiked in so many places, along winding paths, through bush and trees, climbing hills even to great look outs where the views have been breathtaking. We've hiked locally and up in Algonquin too. My whole life has been about the forest, hiking, canoeing, camping, alone, with family and/or with close friends. The forests are like another home for me.

On some hikes, climbing really high, like on a trail in Newfoundland near Gros Morne, I stood looking down at the river and the clouds below me, looking around at the inukshuks on the top with me, and looking out as far as I could see at the world beyond me. And it even seemed to me that I could see the curve of the earth, the arc on the horizon. The same view surprised me in Temiskaming.

In the Rocky Mountains, standing at the top of Sulphur Mountain, or high atop the ski runs of Lake Louise, or Mont Tremblant in Quebec, or in the Blue Ridge Mountains in the south, there is this wondrous feeling of seeing the world in its grandeur. Whether in the greens of the summer forests, or the colours of the autumn, or even in the white blankets of snow, it is all so beautiful. And looking out from whatever summit, is to imagine or see, the earth curves; it arcs.

Against the arcs in the distance, there are mountain tops, or tree tops, or clouds, that break into the horizon, and punctuate the curve, or the arc. And yet, we know the arc continues. The earth is. Life is. And life goes on.

Our world has changed and has become more volatile. It feels like the arc has stopped, or the rainbows of hope and possibility have been shattered. Yet I do believe, we must believe, in the arc of the moral universe, that indeed it must be bending, even if slowly, with disruptions, but always bending towards loving justice. Maybe it is like the rainbows that sometimes we see, and even if not, they are still there.

Apparently, the phrase about the arc of the moral universe originally was coined in 1853 by the 19th century American abolitionist minister Theodore Parker. It was later

used and made more popular by Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Today, many leaders refer to this phrase, this hope-filled belief that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

I believe history shows us that arc when we look at different places and peoples in the world where humanity has become and now is … more humane. That arc may be long, and not perfectly bending without disruption, but I do believe it is real, and that we contribute to that motion, momentum, the arc, whenever we speak out or take up actions for justice, harmony, and peace. If I don't believe this, then what is the alternative? Evil wins? If we don't believe this, then how do we live in this world?

Prayer

Holy God of justice, of peace, hear our prayer:
For the nations, for the world, for people everywhere,
For an end to conflict, wars, aggression, hunger, homelessness, and despair.
Hear our prayer: that we might know and see
The arc of hope and possibility, like the rainbow, is indeed,
A long arc, yet still, is the long arc of the moral universe in which we live.
Amen.

Scripture This Week

Revelation 7:9-17	They will hunger no more and thirst no more.
Psalm 34	Taste and see that God is good.
I John 3:1-3	What we will be has not yet been revealed.
Matthew 5:1-12	The Beatitudes.

TR Question (theological reflection)

If you believe God is active in our world, and the arc of the moral universe is bending towards justice, how do you account for places of war, deaths by disease, pain and suffering? How do you hold onto hope for the world? What are the evidences of the arc indeed bending toward justice and peace?

May the soft voices of hope, the sound minds of reason, and the warm hearts of compassion and justice, lead us with courage, strength and love, and may we notice and follow,

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