



Monday Musing: Monday November 11th, 2024.

Lest...

Do you remember typewriters and those font-balls that would be put in the middle of the typewriter to give us variety in the fonts for our letters? There was Times New Roman, and Gothic, and what else? Now all we have to do is play with a drop-down menu and pick one of nearly 100 or more font options. How things have changed! I found myself last night, while working on other things, playing around with fonts. I like this one so far. It is *aptos (body)*. Mostly though, I found myself thinking about today's service and the words "lest we forget." Lest, I think, is such an important word yet one we don't seem to use much anymore, like typewriter.

Apparently, 'lest' means "for fear that" as in something I don't want to happen. Or it means with the intention of preventing or avoiding the risk of something. Or you do something lest something unpleasant should happen. You do it to try to prevent the unpleasant thing from happening. That's what we talked about yesterday with the kids and after the Esther story too. For fear that war happens again, or that we dishonour those who died by not remembering, is why we need to remember and take the two minutes each year to do so. We also need to learn and understand history.

Lest we forget, what? Lest we forget about the pre-conditions that led to World War I, and the event that sparked and ignited a response with no return from entry into war, something bad will happen. Yes, and that something bad might just be we fail to see, or ignore, the same or similar pre-conditions happening around us now, and then there's a spark, and we're at war again. And if that's what happens, then we have not honoured those who died in the First World War, or any war after. We fail them if we don't pay attention to the things happening around us. Lest we forget? Then what? I don't even want to imagine it.

The pre-conditions of World War I are noted in history books, or just google it. They are militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism, all to the extreme. They are remembered by M.A.I.N. Some people add armaments, that is our weapons becoming more and more deadly and, capitalism, that system that commodifies everything for a profit including war. Now, not everyone will agree with these, but they are worth having a conversation together to think about them. When you play with the m, a, i, n, and add a and c ... you get maniac. I found that on-line and ...hmmm? You know where my thoughts went.

In the late 1800s and into the 1900s, many people, and churches, were very worried about the direction the world was going, that is, the Western world. There was a fear of the rise of individualism, the increased focus on materialism, and the power and lure of capitalism and how these three, like a perfect storm, blown by the wind of the ideology of progress, would harm our society. These conditions would diminish our sense of community; lest we forget our need for human connection, these conditions would lead us to...what? To today?

Now over one hundred years have passed. World War I came and went, horrifically. Then World War II was upon Europe with the unbelievable horrors of the Holocaust and the atomic bombs. Then there was Korea, and Viet Nam, and, and, and...

And what of the silent battles in our own lands for community?

Technology has brought us many things, but what do you think of the benefits and the detriments of television, or individualized music from Walkman to Smartphones? A few weeks ago, we spoke about the rise of the fast-food industry and individualized meals. Respecting our individualism is important but what happens when taken to the extreme? We need material things in our lives. But what happens when needs become wants, and wants are for more? We need to live in a healthy economy, but what happens when everything, including water, and religion, is commodified so only if you have money can you buy what you need to live? Were they right to be afraid over 100 years ago? Lest we forget...

Let us take 2 minutes today to remember and may we also take 2 minutes to reflect on where we are today, what is happening around us, and what we believe today too. Because it really does matter...

Peace always, Rev. Deb Foster, Minister, St. Andrew's United Church, Markham
905-294-0351 minister@standrewsmarkham.com

Prayer

Holy One, we make the claim to be made in your image,
Male and female, in community, in relationship, all people, living as one.
Yet our arrogance, our sense of entitlement, our self focused culture,
Turns us away from each other.
Call us again, Holy One, into community,
Draw us nearer to each other, to the earth, and to you,
That once again we might live, with and within your relational image.
And may we live so in peace. Amen.

Scripture

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| I Samuel 1:4-20 | Samuel is born to Hannah and Eli. |
| I Samuel 2:1-10 | The song of Hannah (then go check out Mary's song in the gospels) |
| Hebrews 10:11-25 | Provoke one another to love and good deeds. |
| Mark 13:1-8 | Not one stone of the temple shall be left standing. |

TR Question (theological reflection)

What, for you, is meant by being made in the image of God? Or is God made in our image?