



Monday Musing: December 9, 2024.
Home...

Do you see the darker spots of branches in this picture? If you're out in the forest, or by greenbelts near your homes, you probably see lots of these up in the trees. They are squirrel nests called dreys. They are the squirrels' homes. And these amazing homes made by squirrels are composed of leaves, twigs, and moss, precisely positioned on the branches of tall trees so as not to fall. There, they provide shelter, protection, warmth, and a safe place to live and raise their babies. Karen and I see a lot of dreys in the forests we visit on Fridays.

Home is a special place, isn't it? For many of us, home is the place where we are sheltered, protected, warm, and safe. Our human homes have beds and blankets, running water, washrooms, and kitchens. They offer us a place of privacy and dignity too. Homes are the places where you bring your friends after school. Homes are where you head back to as adults when things get tough or just to be home again with your Mom and Dad. Home is such a special place to be. To have.

So why is it that not all humans have homes?

Some humans' homes are huge and could hold so many more than are there. Some human homes are smaller, quaint and lovely, cozy. Some human homes are trailers without heat or water or a washroom. Some human homes are tents.

Why is it not all human homes provide shelter, protection, warmth and safety – like the squirrels have?

The dreys of the squirrels in the trees are their own neighborhood way up! And their babies grow and learn to run up and down the trees, gather food, and go back home. Many of our neighborhoods are places where our kids can run and gather friends and learn and play and then go back home.

Why is it not all humans have fun and safe neighbourhoods – like the squirrels have? Like we have?

As human beings, should we not care for and help each other so that we might all have real homes and safe neighbourhoods? Without plans to make this so, do we not then treat our fellow human beings wrongly? Removing people from what they have, or destroying what they have, or forcing them out of the 'better neighbourhoods' like ours, what are we really saying about them and who they are to us? Maybe worse yet, if we allow our fellow human beings who have no homes like ours, to live in places, trailers or tents, without protection,

warmth, water, and safety, well then, aren't we normalizing the wrongs, sustaining the injustices, and leaving our fellow human beings to ... to what?

Some say home is where the heart is. How can the heart feel home if not sheltered through days and nights, if not protected from wind, rain, and snow, if not warm and dry, if not safe, if not with facilities to take care of basic human needs? I wish the earth, our planet home, and the human family, might provide real homes for all people.

I have heard people say, "There go I but for the grace of God." I sure don't want to believe in a god that plays favourites, that some people have what they need to live, a home, leaving others to not have what they need. Does God make the haves and the have nots by the grace of God? I don't believe so. When might we learn that we are called to be, and we are the grace of God.

I don't believe we have better homes than tents because of God's grace. We have better homes because of the cards of life falling in our favour. Jesus made known the love of God, and that's the God I believe is love and is grace and we're made in that relational image of love and grace. Maybe we just need to be reminded it is so. Maybe we just need to learn that together our grace can change the injustices our fellow human beings endure. What do you believe?

Squirrel babies are called kits or kittens. And they grow up in dreys, high up in the trees where they are protected, warm, safe, and ... home.

Peace everyone, just peace,

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Prayer this Week

God of home, where we go when we're sad. God of home, where we go when we're afraid.
God of home, where we go when we're lonely. God of home, where we go to know home.
God of home, wherever and with whomever home might be, may we offer home to others
as you offer home to our hearts. Amen.

Scripture This Week

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing, daughter of Zion; God comes to bring you home.

Isaiah 12:2-6

Proclaim God's deeds to the nations.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in God always, again I say rejoice.

Luke 3:7-18

John warns the crowds, "You brood of vipers!"

TR Question (theological reflection)

Where is God working in our world today? How can we come to realize we are God's grace in the world today? What cards of life fell in your favour? When? By what means? By whom? How might God have been in the cards though not dealing them?