

Children's Sunday, May 24, 2020

Jackie Ravino, Sunday School Group, and Youth

The Promise of the Rainbow

In the middle of this past week, we experienced a good amount of rain here in Swift Current, which I appreciated very much, I was singing with joy while I listen to the rain pitter-patter on our roof and windows. I have been watching and waiting for rain, since last weekend. The reason for that is, I need water, because, for the very first time in our close to seven years of living in our house, I have decided to finally take good care of our lawn, it had been really neglected for years. I actually prayed for rain while running the seed spreader last Monday morning. Also, Mike and I have started a vegetable garden, and the plants are growing. So when the rain came, I was very grateful. In a few weeks, there will be more green, and growing things around our house, hopefully.

Rain poured, in our scripture for today, which is the story of Noah's Ark as read by Sarah, Austin, and Cole, as it was told in the Whirl Story Bible that we often use in Sunday School. I would like to believe that most of us are familiar with this story. When I was a child, I loved reading the version of this story from the Bible, as it was written in Deuteronomy, with all of the ark's measurements included. It was, as described, 155 meters long, 23 meters wide, and 14 meters high. My young, wondering mind then was fascinated by the thought of how massive Noah's ark was.

Noah was a man who found great favor in God's eyes, while the entire population of humankind during that time had become evil and wicked. and so God decided to bring a flood to the earth to destroy everyone except Noah and his family. God told Noah to build an ark big enough to hold one male and one female from every kind of animal and creature.

When it started raining, Noah brought his family onto the ark. And when it finally stopped, the ark came to rest on a mountain, Noah sent out a dove to find dry land but it returned. Seven days later he sent out another dove and it returned with an olive leaf, signaling that it was now safe to go onto land.

God promised to never destroy the earth with a flood again and God placed a rainbow in the sky as a sign of God's promise.

How beautiful are the colours of the rainbow; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet or the little ones would call it purple. I would like to share with you how Austin, Zion, Pacey, Tenley and Jaevy are showing that to us in their arts here (show slide). However, if you look at a rainbow closely, when you happen to see an actual one up in the sky after the rain, the colours blend into each other so much that you only see four or five colours. Very similar to Cole and Wade's rainbows (show slide). This arc though, no matter how many colours there are in it when we look, shows us bright light in spite of the gloomy sky behind it.

In the story of Noah's ark, we can see, that it is one filled with faith and a promise of hope and life.

The year 2020, even if we are just halfway along, is considered by many as a year of loss and gloom. With the effects of this pandemic that is present in our time, the world is filled with so many uncertainties.

When are we going to see and hug our loved ones who are vulnerable to this illness, in person? How is school going to welcome back students in the fall? When are laid-off workers going to go back to work and earn a living to pay the bills and mortgages that are probably deferred at the moment, but are not really gone? Would small and local businesses survive? When are we coming back to worship at the church sanctuary? Many questions bother us.

As provinces and countries are slowly re-opening by phases, we can go ahead with life but are asked by the government to proceed with the "new normal," until further notice. This would mean social distancing,

frequent and proper handwashing, wearing a mask when you go out, if you can, the number of people are limited in gatherings, etc., it will be too many to mention. People are saying that life will never be the same as it was pre-COVID-19.

However, these are challenges that can be overcome for sure. As the saying goes in our time, "We're all in this together 2 meters apart."

It is true that in working together, with God's help, we can meet the challenges that confront us today. There's hope, there's life, there's light, there's a rainbow after the rain.

We will see and hear what our Sunday School children would like to share with us, about the rainbow: you may turn your volume up to hear the kids more clearly. (play video)

(After the video is played) How about you? In the chat section below, we encourage you to answer the same questions:

"What is your favourite colour of the rainbow?" I suppose you are wearing that colour today.

And what can you do to be like a rainbow that brings colour to the world and to other people's lives?"

In these uncertain times, may we find ways to live in colour and light. And we thank God for the continued care God provides for us and to all people.

You may continue to type your answers to the questions mentioned earlier, at the chat section at the bottom, while we listen to the "Gift of Music" that Jaevy Perrera will offer to us this morning. She will be singing, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."