

As I write this devotion for all of you it is raining....again! I cannot recall a time when I have ever seen this much rain. Everything is soaking wet. My yard is like a sponge. My kids stand by the back porch just looking outside, longing for the rain to stop so that they can go and ride their bikes and play in their sandbox, but it just keeps raining. It seems so dreadful.

Last week I posted a short reflection on Facebook similar to what I want to say to you all today. The note included a description of a watching a thunderstorm roll in, blast us with noise and rain and then disappear. One moment there is dread the next, beautiful sun shine. My thought that day was that the weather seemed reflective of our lives. There are times, I said, when we stand in the sun and other when storms arise, but the promise of our faith is that the sun always rises and tomorrow is always a new day. There is a profound truth to those words; tomorrow is always a new day. Yet after days of rain, after months of rain like news, it can be hard to see how tomorrow will be different, it can be hard to remember what it was like to bask in the sun; it can be hard to feel anything other than dread.

The need I believe, that we all have in this time and always, is that in the face of the hardship, in the face of the dread, in the face of the never ending rain we must look for the good, we must look for the blessings that are around us. In this time of constant rain, we need to be the sun. For example, last night, amid the rain, I sat on my back deck looking at my yard and I thought to myself, "My grass, has never been greener." I mean that, the green colour of my grass and the bushes and weeds was and is radiant, breathtaking even. The other day I spoke on the phone with a friend, who was describing to me how hard the past months have been, but then shared a funny and heartfelt story about two people that due to the pandemic have actually grown closer; two people who prior were alone, now have each other.

Life at the moment is not perfect, but we must find ways to let the Son shine. We must be the light of the Christ candle in our everyday moments. Maybe, amid the rain we take the bike ride anyways. Maybe in the midst of the rain we go and dance on the green grass. Maybe in the midst of the rain we just need to read that book under an umbrella. The sun may not be shining, but that doesn't mean we can't. We must choose to shine like the sun and to live like the Son. Friends let your light shine, even in the midst of the rain, let others see the light of your love and be the blessing that others see in this time. Find the ways that God is reaching out and lie fully into those blessings. Who knows, maybe you dancing on the grass in the rain, might be the light of joy in someone else; it might be the blessing that brightens someone else's day.

So, shine like the sun/Son! For even in the midst of the rain, there is much to be thankful for.

Blessings to you all,

The Rev. Adam Hall