

Michael's Musings April 1, 2018

"A Weekend of Surprises"

Yesterday, someone in the grocery store said to me, "So what are you going to do this year with Easter Day falling on April 1st! Doesn't that highlight the foolishness of it all?!"

I laughed - he laughed - and we made our way through the express check-out.

But if you're wondering about the question - here's what we're going to do. Oh, it may seem foolish to many, but what some call an "April fool" we call the Easter mystery:

Port Nelson United Church, 1960's Time Capsule



Look closely at this picture. The "stage" has been set as it were. Port Nelson Church is bedecked with beautiful Easter flowers. The Bible is open. The cross is empty. The brand new Christ candle is waiting to be lit. The communion table will be spread with the gifts of bread and cup. The empty chairs will be filled with choir members and brass players offering glorious Easter music. Prayers have been written, bulletins printed, and sermons contemplated.

But what's at the bottom of the picture?! The short answer is: We don't completely know! It will be a surprise. A time capsule was found in part of the building currently being renovated. Presumably it was placed in the early 1960s. Its copper coating is showing signs of "greening" with age as copper oxide begins to form.

That's about all we know about this mysterious presence awaiting discovery. Are you curious? Come Sunday morning at 10.30am to witness our children catching the very first glimpse of this mysterious presence.

So much of the Easter story is about a mysterious presence awaiting discovery. There is certainly a lot of mystery around Jesus' rising. It continues to surprise us. Yet, isn't that the heart of it? Doesn't the mystery awaiting discovery call us to return - time and again - to the empty tomb? Isn't the mystery of the faith an enduring reminder that God is Holy Mystery, and that there is always more to life than we can see, or hear, or think about, or feel, or control?

St Paul said it well to the Corinthians amid their own questions about life, and death, and life beyond death. We hear these words in a powerful bass solo in Handel's Messiah: "Behold! I tell you a mystery! We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed." (1st Corinthians 15: 51-52)

This weekend, I invite you to come and behold the surprises - the mysteries - which await you and your life. You might discover new blessing and new hope. You might even be changed.

March 23, 2017: HOLY WEEK and EASTER 2018. The most important week of the year for Christians around the world is almost upon us. It begins this Sunday - Palm Sunday - as we remember and enact the dramatic events of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and how empire rubs up against truth. Holy Week continues with the observance of The Last Supper on Holy Thursday, the Crucifixion on Good Friday and, of course, the Resurrection on Easter Day.

On our website you will find information about each of these opportunities to gather - both as our Church Family of Port Nelson, and also as the wider Christian community in Burlington. Many people have worked hard to prepare these services and gatherings so that, God-willing, they will be meaningful and helpful for our journeys. We invite you to partake richly and deeply.