



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast Memorial Day Weekend, May 2020

“We give thanks for those who gave their lives in service to our country.”



Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead: We give you thanks for all your servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them your mercy and the light of thy presence; and give us such a lively sense of your righteous will, that the work which you have begun in them may be perfected; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen. (The Book of Common Prayer – pg. 488)

Readings from Celtic Daily Prayer, Weekend of May 23-25, 2020

Psalm 130:6: My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

Lamentations 3:25-26: The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

Matthew 11:28-30: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Not a sermon...

The short readings above and news articles this week are vivid examples of how much pent up energy – and anxiety – there is due to the extended COVID-19 quarantine, especially here in the North County. This weekend the governments of New York and surrounding states announced beaches would be opened for the Memorial Day weekend. Well...some beaches. And, to be honest, some towns have openly said, “If you’re from New York City, stay away!”

Instead of beaches it’s the lakes of the North Country that bring up visions of getting away and having leisure time to do a lot of things that we’ve been meaning to get to – reading, writing, thinking – and away from – stress of not working, being separated from family and friends, loss of freedom to move around. For many this Memorial Day weekend will be a metaphor for treasure hunting. We will hunt for the undiscovered gems we don’t normally see, and for those things lost during the quarantine.

But holidays do not always reward those who are too anxious or too impatient. To frantically look for treasure this weekend shows not only impatience, but also a disregard for the purpose of Memorial Day. Perhaps too a lack of faith. Patience is what our holidays can teach us, especially this weekend.

Patience and faith. One should spend the weekend empty, open, choiceless, like reclining on a beach or lounging in a boat on a lake – patiently waiting for a gift from God. “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” May it be so. Amen! -Blessings, Vance.
