

Thoughts and Smiles – Aug. 7, 2023

A pastor attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast:



"Lord, I hate buttermilk," the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing

concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour." The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying, help us relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. Stay strong my friends, because our life is being mixed with lots of things that we don't care for.....relax and wait until the mixing is done.

(Thank you, Gord Walden, for sharing this with me!)

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous
to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.

How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.

How two hands touch and the bonds will
never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from
those

who think they have the answers.

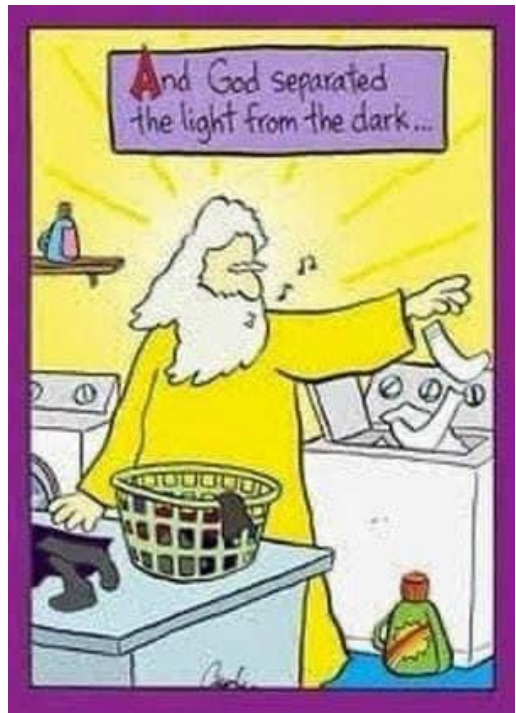
Let me keep company always with those
who say

“Look!” and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

~ *Mary Oliver,*

Evidence A Poetry Handbook





I forgot my cat outside.
I am too scared to let him in now.

When you are a first time visitor at a small church...



This may be my last post

***Have a terrific week!
Blessings to you all!***

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*Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach
United Church website.*
<https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>



Watch the video on U-Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef2VMD1SIJU>



Meet **Asnakech Zema**. For this film, she welcomed us in 2020 to see her thriving farm in southern Ethiopia. In the last three years, she had built up her land through practicing conservation agriculture, and now grows enough food to feed her family and others. The work she and her family are doing to improve soil fertility, add crop diversity and develop marketing are increasing their resilience in the face of climate change and other crises. Asnakech's husband treats her with new respect—and works alongside her in a farming and life partnership.

Mark your envelope "Foodgrains Bank" to help out.

We will be collecting all of August for this worthy cause.