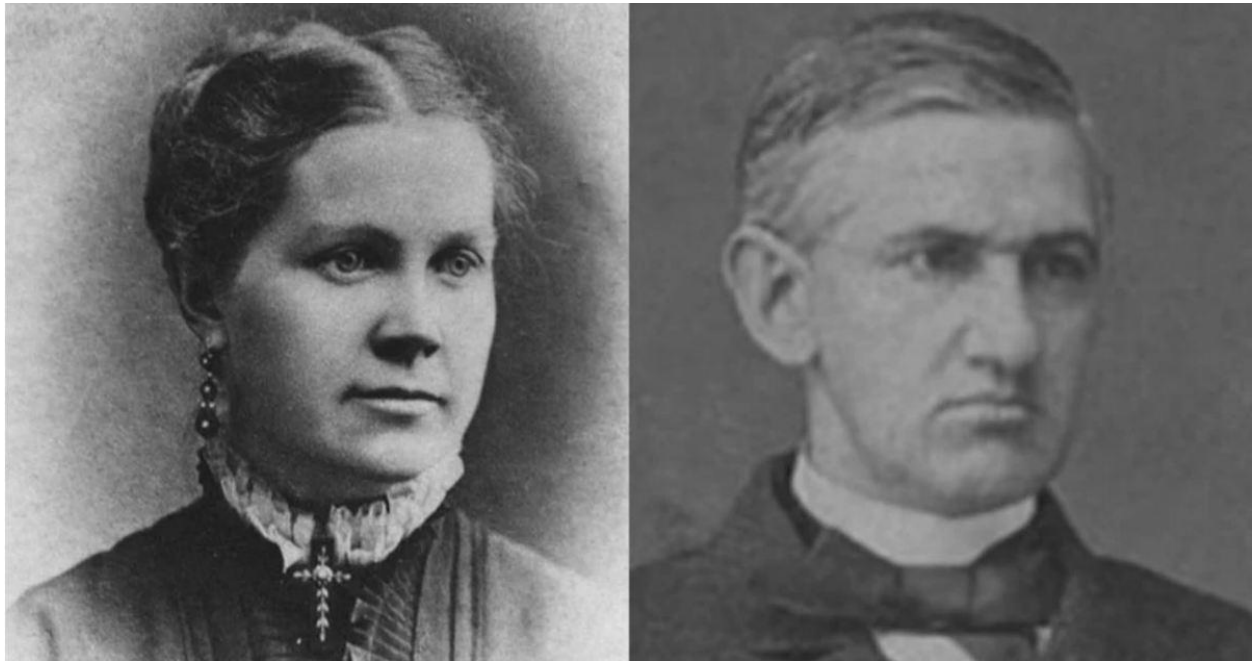


Thoughts and Smiles – Sept. 8, 2025



“It Is Well With My Soul” – A Story of Grace in the Storm

There are moments when life seems to unravel at the seams, when grief comes in wave after wave, and we wonder how the heart can possibly carry such weight. Such was the story of Horatio Spafford, a man who had every reason to sink under despair, yet whose faith helped him rise.

Horatio was a successful lawyer and devoted family man in Chicago in the late 1800s. But tragedy struck swiftly. First, the Spaffords’ young son died of scarlet fever. Two years later, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed much of his fortune. Still, Horatio and his family turned outward in compassion, helping neighbours who had lost everything.

A few years later, hoping to restore some joy, Horatio sent his wife Anna and their four daughters ahead on a voyage to Europe while he finished some work. At sea, disaster came again. Their ship collided with another and sank within minutes. Over two hundred lives were lost, including all four of their daughters. Anna alone survived, sending a heart-wrenching telegram: *“Saved alone. What shall I do?”*

As Horatio sailed to join her, the captain pointed out the very place where his daughters had drowned. In that moment of immeasurable sorrow, Horatio returned to his cabin and penned words that have outlived him by more than a century:

*“When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.”*



the homestead. So, the reluctant girl returned home, exchanging creature comforts for the harsh realities of frontier life: poverty, disease, and isolation. Anna believed these were the darkest days of her life. Once her father died a few years later, Anna returned to Chicago, vowing never to be poor again.

offices. And it was to be in this house where Horatio and Anna Spafford's theology would take a marked turn."

Another Shipwreck

The Civil War prompted a flurry of activity at the Lake View house. Spafford, along with Moody, became a vocal champion of abolition and a political fervor that fed upon a theology

These words were not written in comfort or ease, but in the heart of loss. They reflect a peace deeper than understanding—a peace not born of circumstance, but of Christ's presence in the storm.

As Paul writes in Philippians 4:7: *“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Horatio's hymn reminds us:

- God's goodness is not dependent on our circumstances.
- Peace is not the absence of sorrow, but the presence of Christ.
- Even our deepest wounds may one day shine light into another's darkness.

And so we sing, echoing his faith:

*“Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.”*

You may not face Horatio's losses, but perhaps you carry storms of your own—grief, unanswered questions, or unfulfilled hopes. Take heart. The same God who met Horatio on that ocean journey meets us still. Christ is our anchor, steady even when the waves rise.

And so, with trembling yet trusting hearts, we too may say:

"It is well... it is well with my soul."

<https://youtu.be/zY5o9mP22V0?si=c7GV9opxUSb7lCCY>

"Sometimes, thought Pooh, the world feels rather rainy, and no matter how hard you try, the cloud seems to follow you wherever you go. It can be a little lonely, sitting in the



puddles with your fur all wet, wondering if the sun has forgotten you. But then along comes someone who sees you—not the raincloud, not the muddle, but you. And they bring with them not magic to stop the storm, but something far better: a hand to hold, a smile to share, and an umbrella to remind you that you don't have to weather the rain alone. Christopher Robin didn't chase the cloud away, but by standing there, by holding the umbrella steady, he made the storm feel smaller, and Pooh's heart feel lighter. And Pooh realized then that friendship is not about fixing every sadness, but about sitting beside someone in the downpour and saying, 'I'll be here until it passes.' For even the heaviest rain, thought Pooh, cannot last

forever, but kindness—oh, kindness stays, and keeps you warm long after the storm has gone." — Winnie the Pooh

HOLDING OUT

I will gently float my boat along a peaceful sea -
Will swim the depth of oceans to search for more of me.
I'll canoe straight down a waterfall, if the wind
decides;
I will not force the flow, I'll just enjoy the ride.

I'll climb the highest mountain to touch more
of my soul -
I'll walk through lonely deserts to reach that
final goal.
I don't decide the way, but my heart knows
where to go.
I won't force any action - I'll just embrace the
flow.

I'll cry a thousand rivers, dance in heavy rain -
I'll ride the storm you send me, stand strong
through hurricanes.
Just take me where the warm truth blows,
where snowdrops know my name,
I don't care how you get me there, but get me
there, I pray.

No going back to playing games, the moon
pulls on my heart -
There's so much that is waiting, so many
dreams to start,
So take me to my destiny, I trust the bigger
plan.
Just say that you'll be there with me - I'm holding out my hand.

For though I'm strong and proud, without you I am weak -
My voice so firm on sound, but without you I can't speak.
I'm ready now to brave this ride, I'm ready for this growth -
Just say you'll take my hand till this hand is all I hold.

Heather Lea





Customer Service:
"Is it plugged in?"



Customer:
"DUH...YES! Do you think I'm a idiot?"



BACK TO SCHOOL

Today: Hair
 Salon \$42
 plus tip



In My Day: At
 home
 Tupperware
 special \$0





Blessings to you all!

David Jones

Minister

Hepworth-Sauble Beach Pastoral Charge

Check out "David's Blog" on the Sauble Beach United Church website.

<https://saubleunitedchurch.ca/category/davids-blog/>

In this heartfelt reflection and prayer, we discover the beauty of shalom—the kind of peace that anchors you when storms rage, steadies you when fear whispers, and strengthens you when battles surround. <https://youtu.be/h3NMRWy6fS8?si=OpCs4InpRZXvQnXf>

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BUT THERE'S A
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