

PASTORAL LETTER 12/1/21

Today I am not going to start with a Bible reading but rather some thoughts from Howard Thurman about what we should be doing now that Christmas and Epiphany are behind us.

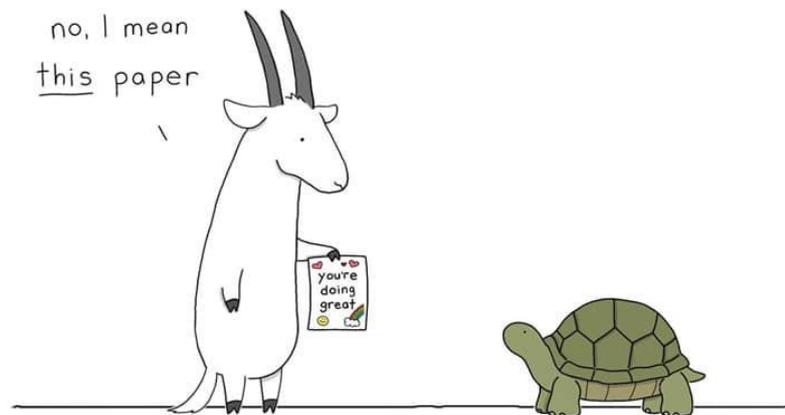
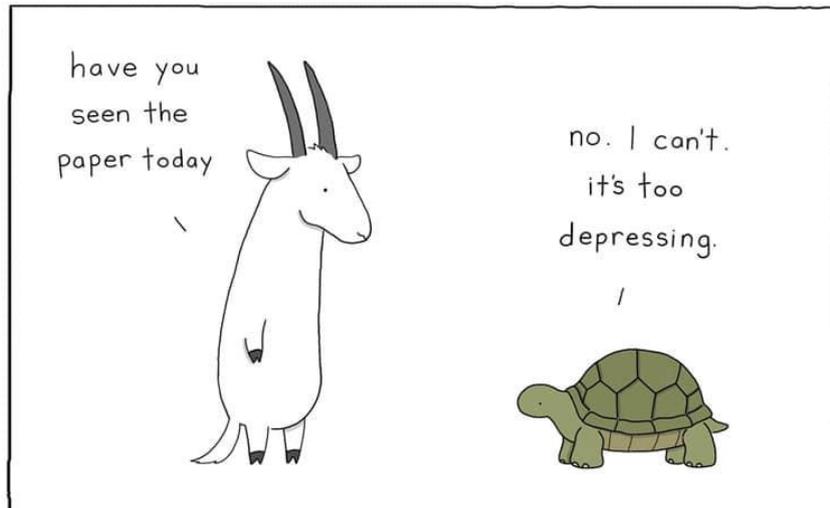
*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.*

Why is it that we never think that the work of Christmas is a 365 day occupation? Good will is the theme in the run up to Christmas and yet as soon as it is over we forget, we get caught up in the everyday. But our everyday is now not what we thought it would be a year ago.....The work of Christmas is an everyday task for Christians it should be what sustains and strengthens us. Our work now is different than what we expected it to be but it is no less valuable, every time you pick up the phone or see people across a computer screen you are doing God's work. We need to find a place in our hearts for everyone, and ask the simple question: what can I do? The carol says is all: if I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb.....give my heart. That is what we need to do give our hearts to the stranger as well as the friend.

Connecting in new ways is going to be part of my challenge for the next part of this lockdown, and I write today after having a session with some members who are unfamiliar with the use of computer video technology. It's challenging for those trying to get to grips with it for the first time, and it is equally challenging for those trying to share their skills. But we will get there because it will open new doors for our worshipping community to engage and receive the strength that Jesus gives us.

We often say that attending church feeds us, and we need sustenance. So we need to find new ways of being with one another to support each one of us, to enable us to take the message that we share at Christmas out into the wider community. Because the work of Christmas has now truly begun.

And finally something to ponder on.....



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Stay safe, every blessing,

Jacquie