

Here is an example from last year:

OUR CAMINO 2020. JOURNEYING TOGETHER THROUGH LENT IN REFLECTION AND PRAYER



Thursday, February 27, 2020: Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10;
Romans 1:1-7

Reflector: Ted Bellman

Short Bio: Married to Muriel 57 years. 3 children, 4 grand-children and 3 step grand-children. Enjoying condo living after 43 years living in a larger home. President of our Condo Board, active member of Nepean Kanata Rotary Club.

Text: Jonah 3:5 “and the people of Nineveh believed God”

The well-known story of Jonah seems so ridiculous that one might wonder how it ever made it into the Bible. But a second look at the Book of Jonah reveals a message that we can all take to heart.

Jonah, a prophet in Northern Israel some 3000 years ago, was sent by God to Nineveh, the present-day city of Mosul in Northern Iraq, one of the oldest and greatest cities of antiquity. He was someone that had disobeyed God and yet repented and been delivered miraculously from his encounter with the whale. He was instructed to admonish the residents of the city for their sins and inform them that the Lord would destroy their city in 40 days. The citizens of Nineveh listened to Jonah. They repented of their ways and by God’s grace escaped a Jonah-like fate that otherwise could not avoid.

Some more recent events are very real, far from ridiculous, easily understood by all of us, and yet eerily similar to the message of Jonah. One hundred and fifty years ago, Frederick Douglass, was a slave in the southern United States. He was brutally treated yet miraculously, and the right word is miraculously, educated himself, escaped his early circumstances and then despite many ups and downs became a leader of the abolitionist movement. Using his skills as a brilliant writer and orator he effectively demanded, cajoled and ultimately with others led the broken United States and President Lincoln to finally issue an Emancipation Proclamation before the end of their Civil War. Even today there are individuals, some well-known, and other known only to ourselves, who, despite setbacks but with the wind of God at their backs, are urging us to change our ways to avoid disaster.

Prayer: Lord help me not to lean only on my own understanding but in everything to call on you to direct my words, thoughts and actions -in Jesus’ Name. Amen