

ST JOHN NORTHLAND AWARDS

Reading Philippians 4:4-9 - Douglas Mansill, Chaplain Far North

Kia hari tonu i roto i te Ariki: ko tāku kupu anō tēnei, Kia hari. Kia mōhiotia tō koutou ngākau ngāwari e ngā tāngata katoa. Kua tata te Ariki. Kua e mānukanuka ki tētahi mea; engari i ngā mea katoa whakaaturia ki te Atua ngā mea e matea ai e koutou, i runga i te karakia, i te Īnoi, me te whakawhetai hoki. Ā mā te mārīe o te Atua, e kore nei e taea te whakaaro, e tiaki ō koutou ngākau, ō koutou hinengaro, i roto i a Karaiti Ihu.

Heoi, e ōku teina, ko ngā mea e pono ana, ko ngā mea e whai hōnore ana, ko ngā mea e tika ana, ko ngā mea e kino kore ana, ko ngā mea e ātaahua ana, ko ngā mea e kōrerotia paitia ana; ki te mea he pai, ki te mea he whakamoemiti; whakaaroa ēnei mea. Ko ngā mea i whakaakona ki a koutou, i riro i a koutou, i rongo ai, i kite ai rānei ki ahau, mahia ēnei: ā ka noho te Atua o te rangimārie ki a koutou.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Words of Encouragement

There was a reading I briefly caught a connection with before choosing this Philippians one for today – the Psalm for tomorrow that we were looking at in a study group here on Monday. Psalm 119:97-104 includes:

Oh, how I love your law
It is my meditation all day long.

I do not turn away from your ordinances.

With this event on my mind, I caught a connection, but it was a strong reaction bringing to mind the frustrations of being part of an organisation with rules, precepts, and locked-in systems. And long pipelines that are inclined to get blocked. And compartmentalisation. A day like this is to be a time to meet each other across our compartments, one St John, but not everyone wants to be here, for different reasons, but in particular I hear disillusionment with the institution and institutional ways. We each know something of that I am sure. It's not been an easy year for many.

It is very easy to get the grumps when part of a big organisation. Don't I know that with Church. I am so looking forward to being retired and getting way under the Presbyterian Church's radar in the hills of Central Otago.

Why do we persist? There are things that are not right. So much paperwork and the feeling of who reads the reports. So many surveys yet do we feel listened to? All classic for big organisations. And yet we keep going. Perhaps even more determined to do the job that we each have chosen.

Why? Well, what I see, what I hear, is that we persist because of people. People we care for, people we care about, and people who care for us. What's more, there are plenty among us, as I hear it, who just love their job.

Hence the reading I did choose.

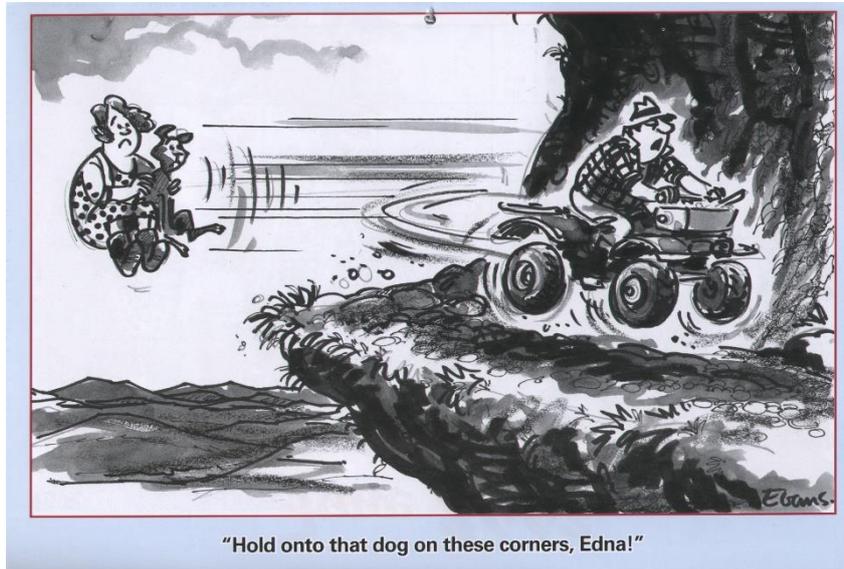
My paraphrase of it for today:

We celebrate the strengths and achievements, the friendship and support, the shared mission we have in being Here for Life and First to Care. "Rejoice in the Lord always" is a way some of use to express things like that.

We express our concerns but don't hold them tight. We don't make them the framework through which we see everything else. Rather we let out, hand over, and get on with it.

We hold on instead to the basics of makes us truly and positively human.

Another reason for a day like this is simply to take a pause, and not be continually in a rush with all the jobs we have to do. There can be problems when we rush...



A pause for reflection – to reclaim these basics.

Nō reira, kia tau te rangimārie ki runga ki a tātou katoa.