

beautiful things

Here are a few more pics that I took as I left St Stephen's two weeks ago. The summer was so dry, a couple of showers and this mushroom reminded me of potential and waiting. A beautiful thing. The church from a different perspective and the promise of peace. I am more thoughtful about what peace looks like this year.

It's Holy Week, every year we walk with Jesus to the cross. Each day Jesus walks into the grip of his enemies. Each night he walks into the warmth of his friends.

Listen to Hannah tell us what happened one night. Feel the tension, smell the perfume, listen to the argument, receive peace.

Mary takes her most expensive perfume. She soothes Jesus' head. The disciples are furious. They know better.

Jesus says – don't hassle her. She has done a beautiful thing.

Researchers tell us that in Roman times women healers used perfume or oil to anoint people suffering anxiety and stress.

Jesus carried the weight of people's disappointment, sorrow, pain, suffering. He knew ultimate isolation was approaching, execution and death. The woman noticed, acted, released healing. A beautiful thing.

Many posts on social media have enhanced beautiful things, the opportunities to 'stop and smell the roses'; to be creative with people.

At the heart of our good news story Jesus says – wherever the good news is told the story of Mary's gift will be told.

Your bubble maybe getting a bit restrictive, more like a balloon deflating.

Holy Week reminds us that God in Jesus had that experience.

On Thursday and Friday Jesus absorbs the ugliness of violence in order to break the power of violence. Today he relaxes in the healing of touch, smell, sound and sight.

Listen to the reading and the music – let God lead your thoughts.

Look at the images – connect with your memory of our community and place.

Find something with a smell - lavender, herbs/ spices from the pantry, a plant from the garden- breathe.

Have a shower or bath, let the water run over you. Give thanks for the water of new life.

May the beauty of God nurture us, the peace of God protect us, the love of God be in our hearts, homes, communities and world now and at the end of the COVID 19 situation. Amen.





