

St. Boniface Episcopal Church



“Be Anxious for Nothing”

While many not too far away from us are experiencing earthquakes, hurricanes and tropical storms, we have been enjoying the weather we missed in mid June rather than the declining temperatures typical of early autumn. I must admit, as much as I celebrate good weather when it is here I often complain when the deep chill of winter encompasses us for extended periods as the frozen tundra of Albany County provides limited opportunity for athletics meant for gentler climates. Recently, reflecting on the benefits of our area has come easy and often when compared to living in areas that extreme weather is not the inconvenience of shoveling snow but the potential to have the environment totaled, the economy toppled and your very existence terminated.

St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians records God’s instruction to be thankful and prayerful as in doing so you will find real peace. These recent weather related tragedies should drive us on to call out in prayer, contribute where possible and to count with thankfulness all our provision from God. We often forget how blessed we are. Below are a few statements, I came across, which compare our conditions with the rest of the citizens, cultures and countries that reside on our earth.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy, and if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day. If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation you are ahead of 700 million people in the world. If you can attend a church without the fear of any harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.

When we truly reflect, we see the towering rewards that God has poured out on us as the people of Christ and as the populous of this country. Our provision should move us to prayer, purpose and peace, carrying out the charge originally given to the Philippians in the first century, “Be anxious for nothing but in everything in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

In Christ,
Father Steven +