A.M.D.G. Text: Matthew 6: 25-34

**In Celebration For the Life**

**Of Frances Violet (nee Hunter) Delhaye**

**1924-2015**

**Scripture: Matthew 6: 25-34**

**“So my counsel is: Don’t worry about *things—*food, drink, and clothes. For you already have life and a body—and they are far more important than what to eat and wear. Look at the birds! They don’t worry about what to eat—they don’t need to sow or reap or store up food—for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Will all your worries add a single moment to your life? “And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don’t worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won’t he more surely care for you, O you of little faith? “So don’t worry at all. Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well what you need. Don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrows too. Just live one day at a time.**

Life is filled with ups and downs. In each of our lives, there are moments of great joy – births, marriages, graduations, personal achievements, milestones along the way. And there are moments of difficulty, worry and challenge – the loss of a job, mistakes, an uncertain diagnosis, the breakdown of a relationship, illness – and why we have gathered here today – the loss of a loved one. No one escapes the vagaries of life …. and the certainty of death. And ironically – its often the most difficult times in our lives that yield us the greatest lessons. As a Minister, I always consider it a privilege to share in times like these – because they remind me once again of what is important in life – and what is not.

When Doreen and I first spoke, she told me about Fran’s love of nature. And that brought to mind the scripture we have just shared from the Gospel of Matthew. In it, Jesus helps us put into perspective how precious each day is – and encourages us to set our priorities on things of greatest importance. He points us to the lessons that nature can teach us. *“Look at the flowers of the field – they neither toil nor spin. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as beautifully as they.”* Flowers bloom where they’re planted – giving of their beauty fully to the moment, however long or short that may be. And Jesus urges us not to focus so much on the unknown future – or things over which we have no control – but to live fully into the richness and beauty of life all around us – the glory of creation, the love of family, the laughter of a child, the touch of a friend …. to savour moments that are given to us each day by the hand of God. And to trust that God – who created each of us with such beauty and complexity – will be present with us in the joys and sorrows of today – and all the uncertainties of tomorrow. *“Don’t be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrows, too. Just live one day at a time.”*

From what we’ve heard today – that is the way Fran tried to live her life – open to the experiences of each day – and sharing much love, laughter, and kindness along the way. A fitting tribute to a life well loved and lived – and a lasting reminder for the rest of us to savour the people and things in our lives of greatest importance – and to place our tomorrows into the loving hands of God.