



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

Not everybody cares who wins the Stanley Cup; and not everyone watches the last game of the World Series. The Super Bowl is not even a ‘thing’ for everyone; nor is the NBA Championship. But the whole world *is* waiting for a Corona Vaccine. The entire planet is hoping for a cure.

That’s the point – for once, in a very long time, we are all looking for the same thing: the poorest child and the richest executive; the widow and the orphan; the weak and the strong; the old and the young. No matter the colour of our skin; no matter our religion, sex or country of origin – we are all waiting for it.

Near the beginning of George Frideric Handel’s Messiah there is a cheerful, upbeat chorus filled with soprano harmonies which features the text from Isaiah 40. 5. I’m sure you have heard it:

“And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it”.

This year, as I begin my Advent-listening of this powerful oratorio, the words *“the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together”*. That’s *all flesh...together* – everybody in the world, at the same time. Isaiah prophesied it and the Lord JESUS Himself spoke of it:

“As the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall the coming of the Son of man be....and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory”. (St. Matthew 24. 27,30)

That revealing of the Lord’s glory will be both terrifying and wonderful – on a level we cannot imagine. Christ, our Crucified and Risen Saviour, our Ascended Lord and Great Physician, will come and every eye shall see Him. He shall bring perfect judgement and divine justice; and, ultimately, He will bring salvation and healing.

The corona virus has a big spiritual side to it. Yes there are major social and economic pieces; but there is also a huge, invisible, eternal aspect for the Church to step into. As the world waits for the COVID cure, people are more aware – and maybe more ready to hear about their need for the Love of God, and the grace and truth of His Son Jesus Christ.

The massive, commercial Christmas machine will not be firing on all cylinders this year, and that may provide room in some hearts for the Good News which came to Bethlehem, and God’s glory which shall be revealed. Please note the following additions to the Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve (December 24th) -- In the Church: 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 11:00 PM

Christmas Day (December 25th) -- In the Church 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM; and at the old Moncton High parking lot: 3:30 PM.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Chris VanBuskirk +



