

# The Lakeside



## Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday May 22, 2023 – Romans 5:5

5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Read Romans 5 for meditation and inspiration.



## COME, HOLY SPIRIT, COME!

Dear Lakesiders and friends,

In one of his novels, E.M. Forster gives us an emotional interpretation of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. He describes, in rather frightening terms, how the music gives one the eerie feeling that there are shadowy, sinister goblins roaming all over the earth. And then, in a burst of beautiful music, one hears them swept away - - and the earth seems bright and clean once more. But, suddenly, it happens again: the goblins are back, and the feeling is that this time they are really going to exercise their evil power and take over the world. Again, in a wave of beautiful music, they are swept away. Then the symphony ends joyously, on a high note, as the goblins completely disappear.

We all experience those spiritual and emotional ups and downs, highs and lows, in our individual symphony of life. The shadowy goblin of death comes roaming around and we're feeling mighty low. Then something wonderful breaks through to sweep that goblin away, and our life seems bright and clean. But deep down inside, we know the goblins will be back -- and we're afraid.

There is a "Peanuts" cartoon in which little Linus is afraid to go to the library. Charlie Brown tries to relieve him of his fear, saying, "Everyone is lonely in one

place or another." Linus asks Charlie, "Where is that place for you." Charlie answers, "Earth."

Charlie Brown answers for us all. Who among us has not felt that awful feeling that our big wide world is a fearful place; that there is nowhere to go for relief? But God takes that symphony and as the conductor holds control over all those seemingly dissonant chords, the disruptive notes and brings out his masterpiece of love.

For this is life.

Our LORD in the Holy Spirit is Composer and Conductor. The women are the choir leads as sopranos. The men are the first instrumental section leaders. The children are the ensemble members. Beautiful music is created together by the Lakeside Congregation with each one doing his and her part-with all following the directions of the Conductor.

The beauty of life is only possible when each performer plays his or her part well, submitting to the leader, working hard to do his or her own part, fully cooperating with the Conductor. When this happens, the music is so beautiful that the whole world, the audience, is drawn to the Conductor. The weaving together of this perfect work of art is accomplished by the Holy Spirit as the Conductor of it all.

May our music as a church soar to the heavens.

In Holy Spirit harmony,



Roger

