



Rev. Rosemary Doran

Rosemary's Reflections

December 2017

A few weeks ago I read a story in a devotional published by The Presbyterian Church in Canada. It was about two small girls having a make-believe tea party in their garden. While they were playing, a plane flew overhead. From it dropped "white disks that floated from the heavens like tiny snowflakes." On each disk was written the word "Peace". The date was Nov 11, 1918. The time was 11:00 am.

It reminded me of another story from another war, World War 2. A young Japanese girl named Sadako was dying from radiation sickness, as a result of the dropping of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. She began to make paper cranes, which became a symbol of peace and hope for the world. This evolved into the Peace Crane Project. People are encouraged to fold an origami crane and place it in a window or on a table or hang it from a tree, so that "the brightly coloured cranes, so delicate, are whispers for peace." In Hiroshima's Peace Park there is a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane. On the plaque is written "This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world."

Peace is a part of the Advent message, along with its sisters Hope, Joy and Love. We need to hear of all of them in the too often dark and challenging times in which we live. And we need to hear them all year long, not just at Advent. They are what Jesus is about. They are what Jesus' followers are to be about.

*Hope is a star that shines in the night...
Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth...
Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn...
Love is a flame that burns in our heart...*

Maybe our gift to Jesus, as we celebrate His birthday this year, could be to resolve not just to sing these words but also to act on them every day of our lives – in our words and in our thinking, in our families and in our neighbourhood, at church or at the office, as we drive or take the train or walk the dog. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with us.

Have a blessed Christmas, everyone.

Rosemary