

Faith Matters # 2 – “Adoration” – February 12

I was heading up highway # 11, approaching the magnificent Muskoka area and had just picked up a hitchhiker. He must have been in his early 40s. It was late September. We came to the crest of a hill and suddenly before us we saw across the blue lake, a glorious gold and crimson forest under a clear autumn sky dotted with white clouds. I said to the hitchhiker, “Isn’t that beautiful!” He replied, “I live up here.” “Yes, but isn’t that scene awesome?” He answered, “I’ve seen it before.”

No matter how hard I tried, he wouldn’t or couldn’t acknowledge the splendour. Somehow, he was not completely alive.

That experience became a kind of parable for me. There are people who in their prayers rarely acknowledge God’s glory. Yet there is so much to praise: the One who created everything from quarks to galaxies, who came to us on our planet as a loving Saviour, who guides us by the Spirit, who stooped to speak to us in Scripture – all wonderful.

God doesn’t need our praise. God doesn’t need anything, especially from us. But our praise of the glorious, all-powerful, loving God indicates how alive we are. Being a follower of Jesus Christ involves prayer, prayer that begins with adoration. That’s a sign that we are alive.

If you arrive in church early on a Sunday morning, check out hymn # 332 as a model of praise: O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the worlds Thy hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art. That’s adoration.

(by Rev. Willard Pottinger – Erskine Presbyterian Church, Hamilton)