

The Lakeside



Message in a bottle

Verse of the day for Monday December 2, 2024 - 1 Samuel 12: 24

24 But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.

Read 1 Samuel 12 for meditation and inspiration.



ADVENT ONE HOPE YOUR BEST GIFT

Dear Lakesiders and Friends,

In a book called "The Dragon Doesn't Live Here Anymore," the author recalls attending a concert performed by an elementary school band.

The youngsters took their places on the bandstand, adjusted their music stands, and tuned up their instruments. Then, with a touch of drama, the music teacher raised her baton. I sat back and, for some strange reason, expected to hear a beautiful symphony. To my surprise, I heard a horrid cacophony of squeaks, honks, upbeat notes on the downbeat, and a march that sounded more like a nursery rhyme. "This is terrible," I thought as I shriveled inside.

And then I heard a gentle voice speak within me: "These are children; they are learning and are doing very well." The voice, of course, spoke the truth. I was judging at first according to my expectations, not accepting that they were all performing according to their ability. And, at that moment, the music became so lovely to me that I sat back and enjoyed every remaining moment of the concert. And I think I cheered loudest when it ended.

Is this not the spirit of Advent. Each person preparing to bring the best gift of themselves to the Christ Child. Each one ready to cheer on the other as their offerings

are given. Every Child of God is seen as precious and important in God's plan for humanity in the building of His Eternal Kingdom.

In the great promise or HOPE,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger".

Roger