

PACKAGE DELIVERED

I purchase a lot online from stores. This results in having a lot of stuff delivered. I have not been in a Department Store in a long time, I miss this, but we do what we have to do during this pandemic. I look forward to the time when I can actually go into a store and see things in person. Recently, I received an email that said, "Package delivered." It had a picture of the package by my front door. Now I was sitting at the computer by a large window overlooking our small courtyard. The Delivery Truck had to park in front of the courtyard and the driver had to walk by the window. I saw nothing. It's like my peripheral vision does not kick in when I am concentrating on writing or reading or even playing solitaire (a game which seems very appropriate right now). I thank God for the blessings of the day each morning these include waking up in a nice warm bed, taking a hot shower, having what I choose for breakfast, and enjoying the sunshine and calm skies that God has provided, even the snow today has a quiet beauty. We have just celebrated Thanksgiving and some of us have done this alone, but with phone and zoom calls and text messages. Others, thanks to the generosity of some, have celebrated with the food they have received after waiting in long lines. I was astounded at the number of people that lined up for food in many places. Many said they were down to their last cans of food and didn't know what they were going to do. Now Christmas is coming, and the situation is looking bleak for many. I was a child that grew up without much and it hurts me to see children going without. I remember how thrilled I was that the elementary school would be offering lunch and then how deflated I was when I found out it would cost money. Now, children who often received food at school are home schooled and food is scarce. It's hard to learn when you are hungry. It's hard to do anything when you are hungry. People are in need, children are in need, may we answer in this Christmas season, when we were given the greatest gift of all, to the needs of those around us. I pray I do not put them in my peripheral vision but see their need and respond as I am called to do by Christ.

Matthew 25:37-40 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, "I tell you the truth whenever you did it for one of the least of my children, you did it for me."

Lord, be with us this Advent season, guide us in your ways. We thank you for the blessings we receive, for food and shelter and especially for your love and guidance. May we answer the call to tend your sheep, to help those less fortunate, to see the needs of others. Be with those who are suffering illness and grief, may they be healed. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry, guide him and bless him, keep him safe. Be with his family, bless them. Be with our church leaders and staff, may they be strengthened and blessed. Be with our Church family. Be with us as we seek to be the church, may we be the hands and feet of Christ. Be with our nation help us to be truly united in purpose and deeds. In Jesus name, Amen

Grace Epperson