

A SPECIAL TIME

This last week I was able to go to Illinois to see my Daughter and her family and especially my Great Grandchildren. Because I have been Vaccinated and tested, I felt secure in their presence and I was able to hug my daughter and my granddaughters and the little great grandchildren. It has been almost a year since I have seen them, and their growth amazed me. Now they are a three-year-old, a two-year-old, and a 15-month-old. When I saw them last July, we were not able to hug, so well over a year without little arms around my neck, over a year without the hugs of my Granddaughters, over a year without the hugs of my daughter. Although I had seen my daughter, son-in-law, one granddaughter and one great grandson at Christmas on their brief visit here, there was no hugging then. That they remembered me was amazing. The littlest one, 15 months, kept staring at me at first probably because she had just seen that lady on the computer in a zoom call. It was a wonderful visit full of laughter and play time. We even went to the Zoo for a Dinosaur exhibit which was a hit with the 2-year-old. The three-year-old claps out songs with his hands or taps them with his fork at meals. He taught me Baby Beluga and clapped the rhythm for his rhythmless Great Grandmother. My visit to Illinois was a long dreamed for visit and the answer to prayer. God has blessed me with this wonderful family, and I am a grateful Great Grandmother. When my husband and I married, it was my dream to have a family. When I realized that dream, I wanted to see them grow up into wonderful adults, then cancer struck, and I wanted to see them settled with people to love them and that prayer came true. But then God gave me more than I asked for, grandchildren, and I fell in love. I have fallen in love all over again with great grandchildren and I praise God for the gift and pray that I will be worthy of such a gift. It was a wonderful visit, and I am so grateful that I was able to do it. Thanks be to God.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Lord, we thank you for the day, for our families, for the Spring that brings new life. We ask Lord that you be with those that are suffering illness and grief. Be with those who are jobless and homeless. Be with those who have served their country in wars and now are suffering the effects of that service. Bless them and help them. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with those Pastors who are being moved this year, may they find a new and welcoming home, a family to be nurtured and to be nurtured in return. Be with our staff and leaders, guide them and our church. May we be the hands and feet of Christ in this place and in this world. In Jesus most holy name we pray. Amen.

Grace Epperson