

## Kind Deeds

Soon in our Christian Faith the son of God, Jesus Christ will once again suffer death on the cross. We have been asked to not "give up something," but to do something for someone else for Lent. Lately I have been the recipient of kind deeds. My Son calls me frequently, runs errands for me, and makes sure I get to church each Sunday. This is not new, he has been doing this for years. Friends take me to Dr appointments (which are increasing as I age) and for tests which I have had a lot of lately. For one test that lasted three hours, one dear friend took me and stayed until another friend then came to wait and take me home. I don't have to ask they just insist on helping me even with the laundry! This one dear friend not only came over for lunch which she and another friend provided but did some laundry while they were here. Another friend came one evening and brought me "Pasties" for supper and sat awhile and we were able to catch up on our lives. Other friends that live close by took me to the Ash Wednesday Service, something I would not have been able to do without their kindness. I know these people are the ones who would have done acts of kindness without prompting because that is who they are, but they have made me grateful for their presence in my life and they have brought me joy during a trying time. I thank God for all the prayers, the words of encouragement, the cards, and all the kind acts given so freely and with love. God has blessed my life. I have had 39 wonderful years since a cancer diagnosis and have seen my children age, grandchildren married and two of them become parents, and experienced the unique joy of great grandchildren, all of them with a sharp mind and a great sense of humor (the oldest a very smart six, who calls me Great Grandma Grace or GGG for short.) I love hearing them laugh at knock-knock jokes and have sent them all joke books. God has blessed me with a sense of humor that has been with me through poverty, sorrow, trials, and loss and has been with me on the best days of joy and love, second chances, gifts, great friends, and God's blessing of a long life that gave me children, grandchildren and wonder of wonders, great grandchildren. God gave me people who have surrounded me with love and encouraged me to come from a life that could have been my undoing and took that young girl and helped her change her life for the better. Good deeds? My life has been filled with the good deeds of God fearing and loving people since I first entered a church, a 15-year-old wearing clothes she made in Home Economics Sewing class and those people too many to count, gave a young girl hope and showed her a path and with God changed her life.

"You raise me up so I can stand on mountains. You raise me up to walk on stormy seas I am strong when I am on your shoulders, you raise me up to more than I can be."

\*Lyrics from "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban

Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day. May we be worthy of it and may we feel you with us in all things. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. Be with those who hunger for your word. Be with our Pastor and his family, keep them safe; bless him and guide him in all things as he shepherds us. Be with our church, may it always be your church. Be with our leaders and our Staff may they be guided by you in all things. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Grace Epperson