

## The Sun Will Shine

What a blessing it is to call Kelowna home! We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. The summer of 2015 has been a hot one. Thousands of swimmers and sun-bathers flocked to our beaches and just as many boaters sailed and cruised the waters of Lake Okanagan. Others enjoyed our orchards, vineyards, fruit stands and numerous other tourist attractions. Backyards, decks, patios and parks came alive with picnickers. Summer in the Okanagan can be a time of refreshment, relaxation and fun. However, our legendary blue sky, spectacular views and sunshine were blocked for many days by smoke from fires that burned around us. The smoke forced many of us and our visitors inside and curtailed our numerous summer activities. The smoke eventually disappeared and our activities resumed.

The smoke that blocked the sun and the difficulties it inflicted, pointed to a reality in the lives of many in our community. Throughout our city and surrounding communities a number of those who were forced inside, experienced real gloom, found it hard to breathe and experienced tears in their eyes because of illness, grief, personal tragedy and/or the sheer weight of sin and regret. To those who carry these burdens, it seems that the sun will never shine again, the tears will never stop flowing, breathing will always be labored and life cannot go on. They want to know if the sun will shine again. They wonder if anyone cares. They long for a good word. Jesus has a good word for all those who suffer. *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30).

Jesus asks you to give him what burdens you and you will find rest in him. You will find solace when he reveals that the Son of God empathises with you. As truly human, he knows your physical pain and suffering. He was beaten, scourged and crucified. He knows your mental anguish and pain. He put up with ignorant, egotistical and downright evil political and religious leaders. He put up with disciples that misunderstood, denied, abandoned and betrayed him. He forgave those who crucified him because they did not know what they were doing.

As the Son of God, Jesus will reveal that he has the power to forgive our sins and pronounce that his innocent suffering and death paid for the consequences of our sins. You can experience freedom from sin and regret. The Son of God can perform miracles in your life. God can bless the hands of a physician and medical procedures and bring about healing and wholeness. Jesus can miraculously change any situation and change your whole life. Jesus can perform another miracle, he can give you the grace, the faith and strength, to endure your pain and/or suffering, and in the end overcome the obstacles you face. When Jesus works in our lives and he forgives, inspires and strengthens us, we can be transformed and we can become new people. The light of Jesus Christ can shine in our lives, we can see ourselves and the world differently and we can reflect that light on others.

Jesus longs to gather us together as a hen gathers her chicks, but we most often refuse. He is calling you today to come to him. He asks you to bring your burdens and leave them at his feet. He has much to give you. Come gather with us under Jesus' wings. We begin our new church year in September. We worship on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 (Contemporary) and 10:30 (Traditional). Sunday school is at 10:30. During the week we have Bible studies, fellowship meals, and opportunities for service at church and in the community. There is a Healing Service the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM. Come join us.

In Christ Pastor Ed Skutshek