

Cross Words

An Inspirational Message

John 2: 1-12



Pondering the Simply Miraculous

There is a spider web outside my backdoor which spans a five-foot area connecting the deck rail to the wall of my house. It is dripping with dew in the morning and appears to glow from the first rays of the sun. I marvel at the intricacy of its design and the incredible determination one little spider would need to create such an enormous work of art. Near the web, there is a chrysanthemum in full bloom and the bees visit it eagerly with no sign of exhaustion or boredom from their task at hand. Towering over the autumn flowers is an old tree that is currently resurfacing my yard with a bumper crop of acorns. It seems unnecessary to me that the mighty oak has in its branches the need to reproduce so desperately...but who am I to judge anything's destiny.

All of these are in the category of things that often garner a bad reputation when seen through the eyes of the annoyed, but are simple miracles when seen through the eyes of wonder.

How does a spider shoot a web anyway? And what makes that web so durable? My mega-blaster 4200 power washer can't even knock those things down. How does a chrysanthemum know to bloom in the fall allowing the bees to make just enough honey for winter? Then there is the question of how bees instinctively know to make honey...and did you know they dance to communicate with each other? I cannot begin to wrap my mind around that phenomenon. And if you still need to put a definition on the miraculous, how about the fact that there is the potential for a beautiful piano in every one of those acorns?

It's like turning water into wine. What appears to be a problem turns out to be blessing.

Is there anything then that cannot be viewed as astonishing? Surely there is a division between the mundane and the inexplicable. But where exactly does the ordinary become the miraculous? Is it in the space between a problem and an answer?

Where in our own lives might a problem be a blessing in disguise?

Is it when an illness prompts a doctor to find a cure? Is it when an addict finds the support to get clean? Is it when a friend intervenes just in time to prevent a suicide? In what realm of space or time does an event become a miracle? And is it only a miracle if it turns out well? Does the miracle only happen once the oak piano is played or was the acorn a marvel in itself?

Perhaps there is a miracle being created in the very moment we are in right now, but it's just not finished yet. Perhaps it requires us to bring it to fruition.

Perhaps instead of deciding that things are trivial or annoying, it is up to us to look for the miracles in order for them to exist. Maybe it is a miracle if thinking makes it so.

Come visit us at First Christian Church, we talk about things like that.