

# GOD'S COMMITMENT TO OUR SEEMINGLY UNCERTAIN FUTURE

St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops

The Very Rev. Ken Gray

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Sunday, June 5 2016

- When was the last time you attended a funeral?
- What happened at that funeral?
- Did the deceased waken?

In the ancient and biblical world . . .

Lazarus

The widow's son at Nain (today's Gospel lection)

In literature . . .

In Smith and Other Events, a Chilcotin story

Jack, in The Shipping News, by Annie Proulx

QUOTE (The Shipping News)

## SCRIPTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Luke 7:11-17

(Jesus) had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' The dead man sat up and **began to speak**, and Jesus **gave him to his mother**.

Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, '**A great prophet has risen among us!**' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!' This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding country.

## 1 Kings 17:8-16

I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, **that we may eat it, and die.**'

Elijah said to her, '**Do not be afraid**; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. **For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail** until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.'

She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. **The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.**

- Religion in its best guise speaks to a **fundamental struggle** between life and death, without denying either, as both exist in tension with the other
- The gift of hope amidst hopelessness is **a gift to be trusted and received**
- The **discipline of hope** is best demonstrated in and through the fire; remember the Blitz poster: STAY CALM AND CARRY ON
- **Hope is a choice** . . . how do you react to that statement? Can be abusive . . . for me, a context . . .

I have likely told this story too often, and the selection committee invited me to share it, so I did . . . Two additional parishioner stories

So if hope is a choice, then **the choice is ours to make**. Stay in touch on this one.