



# STAYING CONNECTED

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MCIVOR CHURCH FAMILY

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January 11, 2026

## PASTOR SHERRYL'S THOUGHTS

If you had time to look out the window at the beginning of the week, the clouds hung low, the days were cloudy and there was beautiful *rime ice*—a term I had never heard before—on all the trees, right down to the tiniest piece of grass, or branch sticking out from the snow.



Rime ice is defined this way: *the ice on Winnipeg's trees in the last few days was likely rime ice, a beautiful phenomenon formed by supercooled fog droplets freezing onto surfaces in very cold, often foggy, conditions, creating a thick, white coating distinct from delicate hoar frost, and it was caused by persistent below-freezing temperatures and moisture.*

The definition of rime ice speaks of it being a 'beautiful phenomenon' that comes from harsh conditions—fog, persistent below-freezing temperatures and moisture.

When I think of my life and some of the most challenging, harsh situations, I do not immediately think of beauty coming from those situations or experiences. Yet, here in nature we have a perfect example of exactly that—beauty coming from harsh conditions.



Perhaps there are days when you are not sure there will be any beauty coming from the harsh things you are experiencing. It is during these times that Scripture can become a very welcome companion.



In Isaiah 61 we read about ‘*The Year of the Lord’s Favour.*’ Just as Isaiah was authorized and directed to proclaim liberty to the Jews in Babylon, so was Christ, God’s messenger, to publish a more joyful jubilee to a lost world.

The verses of the first part of Isaiah 61 go on to proclaim all the things that will take place for the people of Israel after great suffering in Babylon. In the end of verse 3, Isaiah says that the people of Israel will have the new, amazing name ‘*Oaks of Righteousness*’ for the beauty that is theirs as a result of hardship.

An encouragement to us as we suffer harsh things...beauty can come from the suffering, just as the rime ice came after harsh weather to make our city STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL!!



## ISAIAH 61:1-3

### THE YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOUR

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of His splendor.