



First Sunday after Christmas, December 30, 2018

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

***THOUGHT: Be kind whenever possible.
It is always possible.*** —Tenzin Gyatso

You may remember Andrew Rooney (1919- 2011). He was a curmudgeonly and often crotchety radio and television writer best known for his weekly broadcast, “A Few Minutes with Andy Rooney.” The broadcast was the final segment on the CBS News program “60 Minutes” from 1978 to 2011. His final regular appearance on “60 Minutes” aired on October 2, 2011. He died one month later at age 92.

Rooney had definite opinions. These opinions included the annual rite of making New Year’s resolutions. Once he said, “I’ve given up on resolutions and switched to revolutions. I’m revolting against the way I am.”

You think you’re old and tired? Perhaps you are. But Rooney was 92 and still working! And at that age, he didn’t put up with any nonsense. He said, “I’m not going to lose any weight again this year. Last year I was determined not to resolve to lose any. I didn’t try and for once my resolution was successful. I didn’t lose any.”

One year, he decided to be nice. “In the coming year, I’m going to be nicer to my boss. A little kindness won’t hurt. I realize I’ve treated him miserably for years now.”

That’s a resolution we all could make. Rooney felt strongly about this. He mentioned dogs: “The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.” If a dog can innately practice kindness, shouldn’t humans be able to do it better?

Let’s be nice in 2019. It won’t hurt us one bit.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, you have been kind to me this year. Thank you for the blessings that have befallen me in 2018. I pray for your help and presence in 2019. As you have been with me in the past, and are with me in the present, be with me in the future. In Jesus’ name. Amen.