



Daily Meditations

December 7 - 12, 2020

The Biblical readings are taken from the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer for Year 1 and written by the St. Stephen's Meditation Writing Team: Dave Boyd, Becky Denton, Pat Gillory, Traci Maxwell, Jay Nickel, Bob Reed, T.Cay Rowe, and Carroll Wilson.

Click on the scripture reading for each day to go directly to link.

COLLECT, Advent 2

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation; give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Way

Monday, December 7, 2020

[Psalms 25, 9, 15](#)

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness... - Psalm 25:8b

The resounding themes of Psalm 25 are paths and the leadership of the Lord. It reminds me this life is not static, but dynamic. It is a journey in which we are constantly making choices, some trivial and some life-changing. Each day we are choosing which of many paths we can walk. Some are dead ends; some take us in positive directions; some lead us astray. The consistent advice of the psalmist (and Jesus) is to look for the Lord in all things and try to discern which is the path he would have us follow. It is no coincidence that the earliest Christians were known as followers of The Way (Acts 24:14). Guide me, O Lord, in the right path!

Wait and Hope

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

[Psalms 26, 28, 36, 39](#)

And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you. - Psalm 39:7

As I write this, the latest dismaying numbers of Coronavirus are rising, even beyond the earlier peaks. Where do we turn for hope as exhausted medical workers confront more of the seemingly endless toll of sick and dying, as grieving family members try to cope with the loss of their loved ones, as more stores and shops close to protect workers and customers? Yes, there are glimmers of promising hope on the horizon with new announcements of vaccines coming on line in a few months, but that feels like such a long way off when so many are sick and dying around the world. Where do we turn for hope? The only sure place where we have always been able to turn: to God. We wait and hope.

I Can Swim

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Psalms 68, 119:25-48

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. - Psalm 68:19

Sometimes the news and the worries of the day seem to be like a flood rising up around us, threatening to carry us away. The very next Psalm after this, Psalm 69, emphasizes that point with the plaintive cry: "Save me, God, for the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire where there is no foothold!" But today's psalm reminds us that even though we be swept along by the flood, the Lord bears us up day by day. Thanks be to God...with his help I can swim!

Wait for the Lord

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Psalms 37:1-42

Wait for the Lord, and Keep to his way... - Psalm 37:34a

Perhaps because a dear friend who is waiting for medical test results is very much on my mind, I seem to be drawn to the verses in the Psalms this week that are all about waiting for the Lord. Of course, that's probably because these psalms were chosen for Advent, the time of expectant waiting through a time of deep darkness. Lord, let your light shine! We need it.

Shine on Me

Friday, December 11, 2020

Psalms 31, 35

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love. - Psalm 31:16

As I went for my morning walk in the midst of yet another beautiful day in what has been a long unbroken string of delightful weather, I rejoiced to feel the warm sun shining on my face. How strange it feels to have the steady drumbeat of negative news about coronavirus and the post-election turmoil in the midst of such gorgeous weather! It helps me to remember the priestly blessing that the Lord instructed Moses to speak over the Israelites as they were wandering in the wilderness after fleeing the Egyptians:

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. - Numbers 6:24-26*

May it be so for you.

You Are My Hiding Place *Saturday, December 12, 2020*

Psalms 30, 32, 42, 43

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah. - Psalm 32:7

I could not pass this one up. One vocal group I particularly enjoy listening to is Selah. A favorite song on their album is *You Are My Hiding Place*. Perfect!

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