Dear Ones in Christ,

Grace and peace to you. Let us center our minds and hearts on God’s Word.

Today’s psalm is Psalm 130. While I usually use the other lectionary readings when preaching in person, during these days of physical distancing I have been focusing on the psalms.

Psalm 130  
  
1) Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

2) Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!  
  
3) If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
    Lord, who could stand?  
  
4) But there is forgiveness with you,  
    so that you may be revered.

5) I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
    and in his word I hope.

6) my soul waits for the Lord  
    more than those who watch for the morning,  
    more than those who watch for the morning.

7) O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
    For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
    and with him is great power to redeem.

8) It is he who will redeem Israel  
    from all its iniquities.

This psalm is in 3 parts: First, verses 1-4 the psalmist is speaking to the Lord; Second, verses 5-6 is revealing what the psalmist is personally doing; Third, verses 7-8 is speaking to others to encourage them.

I imagine many around the world have been crying out to God for redemption from this pandemic. When we cry out to God to hear us, we also realize what’s going on in our hearts and it’s not always pretty. We are reminded that there is always forgiveness with God. I’ve had my ugly moments this week from frustration of the electricity going out, not getting through to the unemployment office, and just being isolated from human touch. I’m most grateful there is forgiveness with God.

Verse 5 is a powerful statement, “I wait for the Lord, and my soul wait is, and in his word I hope.” Not many were ones who wanted to wait for anything.  Even waiting in a drive through or fast lane had become unbearable. Now that we have time to wait are we only waiting to be cleared to rush back to our hurried impatient lives? Let us be like the psalmist putting our hope in God’s word that we are loved and redeemed from our own selfishness.

When we cry our to God and ground ourselves with hope, it is then that we can reach out to encourage others. For with the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem everyone. What good news! Steadfast love and power are God’s, and it is God who will work to redeem the world from its iniquities.

I invite you to ponder this psalm in the coming week and let the good message seep into your soul. Cry out to God, wait, have hope, and encourage others with Good News!

Please pray with me:

God of wonder and surprises, of steadfast love and everlasting hope, we bear our souls to you. We cry for relief and yet remind us our hope is in you. Enable us to wait for you more than those who wait for the morning. Be with all who are working so hard to heal the sick and saves lives. Guide us and help us to always look to you so we may share your love and grace with others. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen!