Dear Ones in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the One who is Love. Let us quieten our hearts to hear God’s word for us today.

Today’s Lectionary psalm is Psalm 23. If you went to Sunday School then you might have memorized this in the KJV. I invite you this morning to read it slowly in the NRSV.

1 The LORD  is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;    he leads me beside still waters; 3 he restores my soul.    He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;    for you are with  me; your rod and your  staff —  they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;    you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,    and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

What can I say about this psalm? I suppose I could point out some of the theological themes. I could mention that it is wonderful Hebrew poetry. Or I could say the LORD as host is much like all the times Jesus was a host for his disciples especially at the Lord’s Supper.

What I want to know is how did it speak to you in the past? How does it speak to you today? Whatever version of the Bible you choose to read, let the words and promises sink past your mind into your soul. I invite you to sit with the psalm anew. Choose a verse or a phrase to carry with you in these days of distancing and staying safe at home.

Please join me in prayer:

Gracious and merciful God, your words help us focus from our worries to Your care. Your promises to dwell with us is beyond our understanding. Hold us. Fill us. Renew us. Lead us. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Janice Stamper