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 86:1-10, 16-17

1 Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. 2 Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.    You are my God; 3 be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry  all day long. 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. 7 In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me. 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. 9 All the nations you have made shall come and bow  down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God... 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl. 17 Show me a sign of your  favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,  because  you,  LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

All of us could use this psalm of deliverance right now begging God to hear our prayers from those who seek to destroy decency, caring, compassion, and grace in our world. We need to be crying out to the Lord all day to have mercy and gladden our souls for who God is even before we are delivered from whatever scares us.

Notice how the psalmist goes from asking God to listen to singing God’s praises. Often we just ask and more often we ask selfishly so we can just have a comfortable life. We praise God after the fact if we think God has answered our prayers. Yet, the psalmist praises God in the midst of asking.

Write your own psalm of deliverance! Ask and sing praise. Ask and sing!

Please pray with me and as we pray let us give thanks for the election of the new co-moderators of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley.

Gracious and everlasting God, You alone are God. We give thanks for the election of Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley and their willingness to serve you as the co-moderators. Give them strength and vision to bring Your love to the world.  Hear our prayers and our praise as we keep our hearts and minds on You. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Janice Stamper