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 13

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 is what we would call a gut wrenching cry out to God begging God from the depth of our souls to hear our own iniquities. Who could stand if our own iniquities were named out loud? We certainly know how to point out the iniquities of others, yet it is we, not others, who needs God’s forgiveness.

When we speak out loud our sinfulness then we wait for God. God is the only one who can help us, forgive us, and redeem us not just as individuals but as a nation.

Those of us who are white know there has always been and is still racism in our midst. I’ve watched Christians post racist things all week on social media. And so many of us were taught not to make ways and try to keep the peace. Until all are treated with dignity, respect and justice there is no peace.

Let us cry from our depths for God to forgive the inequities and iniquities of our nation. It is God who will redeem the United States of America from all its iniquities. May we and our nation hope in the true living Lord.

 Please join me in prayer. God of grace and God of glory, hear our prayers as we name out loud the iniquities of our lives and that of our nation. Break through our denial and redeem us as only You can. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Rev. Janice Stamper