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 in Psalm 119:105-112

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. 107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word. 108 Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances. 109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. 111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

There are many today who pick and choose which righteous ordinances of God they will follow. For the psalmist, lighting his feet and path was to walk in God’s way and not forgetting or abandoning this way even when wicked ones set snares.

Loving God and loving others is hard especially in a pandemic when others want their own “American freedoms” while abandoning any semblance of following God’s way of laying down selfish ways so others may live. It is challenging to love others when others in their white privilege yell there is no white privilege. It is heartbreaking when pastors and people in churches demand in-person worship resume while the pandemic rises. It is painful to watch others using children and teachers going back to school to play political ping pong.

And yet,...and yet...the psalmist is praying this prayer for help to keep one’s eyes on God and what matters saying that God’s ways are “the joy of my heart”. Regardless of how people are acting around us and in the world, let us focus on the One who calls us to walk in the way of love and self-sacrifice. Let us keep praying this psalm that the writer prayed so many generations ago when facing the wicked. Let us not give up hope and keep asking God to teach us and lead us in God’s way.

Please pray with me:

O gracious One whose Love is without end, we come burdened watching the wicked and we need You to revive us again to follow in Your way. Your decrees to love you and love others are truly the joy of our hearts. Guard and guide us in Your way of Love. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Rev. Janice Stamper