



*United Presbyterian Church*  
*Harrodsburg, Kentucky*  
*Meditation for Sunday September 13, 2020*

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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 114, however I am using Psalm 27

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh — my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident. 4 One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. 6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! 8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek. 9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation! 10 If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up. 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. 12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence. 13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

This psalm has stayed on my heart this week as I have seen such unspeakable devastation around our world. I kept repeating verses 13-14 as I learned from the New American Standard Bible, "I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD."

In the midst of such tragedies from climate change and global warming we still see goodness. What broke my heart this week was reading about the death of the boy and his dog from the wildfires. At the same time what witness they both gave to the world of their love for each other even as they faced death. They stayed together even as they tried to survive, and then they died together. I'm certain heaven welcomed them both along with the boy's grandmother and so many others.

We watch politicians lie yet know many will vote for them anyway claiming some Scripture as justification for seeking their souls for political gain. We see countless people who claim to love everyone refuse to give a penny to help those in need. Then we see politicians who stand for justice and the most vulnerable no matter the cost to their political careers. We also see people give more than they can afford to help those who have lost everything.

If we take this psalm to heart we do not need to fear for the LORD is our light and salvation in the midst of such trying times. Evil will continue yet the LORD's power is stronger and love bigger than anything and anyone else. May we keep looking to the One who will teach us the ways that the world doesn't understand.

Let us believe and look for the goodness in the midst of tragedies. When we are weary let us wait for the Lord to renew our strength. Let your heart take courage. Wait for the Lord to see all the goodness in the land of the living.

Rev. Janice Stamper