



*United Presbyterian Church
Harrodsburg, Kentucky
Meditation for Sunday September 6, 2020*

Rev. Janice Stamper

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 149

1 Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. 2 Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. 3 Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. 4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. 5 Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, 7 to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, 8 to bind their kings with fetters and their nobles with chains of iron, 9 to execute on them the judgment decreed. This is glory for all his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!

In churches there is a lot of talk about praising God. The psalms are filled with calling people to Praise the LORD! Yes, during the Jesus Movement of the 70's many Presbyterians became a bit leery of such phrases afraid that they would be asked to raise their hands or dance or let loose a bit.

This psalm tells us how the psalmist called everyone to give praise in a variety of ways, including the uncomfortable part of the praise of God to be in their words to execute vengeance and judgment decreed. We aren't to take this literally as justification to bring vengeance upon others, what it calls for is for us to give God praise in all ways in all circumstances.

How will you give praise to God right now in the midst of the pandemic, or in the midst of grieving death, or in the midst of such hatred and injustice. The psalmist reminds us that God adorns the humble with victory. While I dislike the fighting imagery implied, I think it calls us to be humble and give praise to God for all the difficulties we overcome because God is the one carrying us through.

I invited you to take some time to write your own psalm of praise. Praise the LORD!

Please join me in prayer: *Almighty and every-present Holy One, we are yours and you deserve our praise. How often we fail to give you the glory due to your wonderful powerful peaceful presence in our lives. Lift our voices and our bodies once more to truly sing your praise. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.*

Rev. Janice Stamper