

## Mid-Week Ponderings for April 8, 2020

### Psalm 91:1-6

*You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."  
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.  
You will not fear the terror of the night,  
or the arrow that flies by day,  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.*

This scripture was recommended by Jim Stone.

Do any of you find yourself fearful in these days? Fearful that you will contract Covid-19, or fearful that one of your loved ones will? Some of you have shared that you already know people who have contracted the disease and I hear the fear in your voice when you talk about it.

This Psalm talks about the protection that God will provide, but that doesn't mean that people we care about will not get sick or even perhaps die. It means that in the midst of our fear and even our grief, God will be with us. I don't know about you, but I find myself, quite frankly, irritated, with clergy who are putting the lives of their parishioners and, by extension, each of us at risk by continuing to hold worship services in person. In addition to this passage, Jim sent me another passage today from Matthew 4:7, when Jesus is being tested by the devil and Jesus reminds the devil, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

This virus is not an indictment from God, nor is God causing people to die. So my pondering for the week is, how have you felt protected by God in the midst of this pandemic?

Blessings,  
Pastor Brooke