



Reflections from Pastor Brooke for April 24, 2020

*I love God, because God has heard my voice and has heard my supplications.
Because God inclined an ear to me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live.*

~ Psalm 116:1-2

While my last several writings may have been “down in the trenches” with you, this passage reminds us that God hears us in those trenches. I expressed to someone yesterday that this last week I have felt less “okay,” and she said, “Everyone is feeling that way.” I recognize that my (and perhaps yours) “not okay” still includes a job, food security, a place to live, and loving family and friends. My “not okay” is still pretty okay.

But this Psalm, which is part of the lectionary this week, reminds us that in our most “not okay” moments, God hears us. God not only hears us, but recognizes your voice distinctly different from my voice. Your “not okay” looks different from mine, and mine looks different from the person who is relying on the weekly food distributions by the Cleveland Food Bank at the Muni lot. God does not hear your “not okay” and respond with, “You should be grateful for what you have.” No, God listens and knows that what you are experiencing is uniquely challenging for you. God sits with us when we are not okay. But God does not leave us there.

God appears in the sun rising and setting. God appears in the “just because” phone call from someone from church. God appears in the smell of fresh baked pastry from a child who is bored and has decided to learn how to bake. God appears in the flowers that are springing forth and the grass that is beginning to green. Because of this faithfulness, we can call on God in our good times and our “not okay” times, and God will be there. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Brooke".

Pastor Brooke