

Reflections from Pastor Brooke

April 3, 2020

I thank you, Yhwh, for your goodness! Your love is everlasting! Let Israel say it: “Your love is everlasting!” Open the gates of justice for me, let me come in and thank you, Yhwh! This is the gate of Yhwh, and only the upright can enter! Thank you for hearing me, for saving me. It was the stone which the builders rejected that became the keystone; this is Yhwh’s doing, and it is wonderful to see. This is the day Yhwh has made — let us celebrate with joy! Please, Yhwh, please save us! Please, Yhwh, give us prosperity now! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of Yhwh! We bless you from Yhwh’s Temple! Yhwh is God and God has enlightened us. Join the festal procession! With palm fronds in hand, go up to the horns of the altar! You are my God, and I thank you; you are my God and I exalt you. Thank you for hearing me, for saving me. Thank you, Yhwh, for your goodness! Your love is everlasting!

~ Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

We often think of going to the Psalms in times of despair or lament; and there are plenty of Psalms that allow us to cry out to God. But there are also plenty of Psalms that allow us to sing our praises to God. This Psalm — one of the readings in the lectionary this week — does exactly that. It begins with “thank you.” I have seen lots of things online about the hidden blessings in the midst of staying at home. Perhaps it is seeing a neighbor you haven’t seen for a while, or a chalk drawing that neighborhood children have drawn, or pictures of “drive by birthday parties.” I admit that on my bad days, I can resemble a temper-tantrum-throwing toddler. But then I remember that being at home has afforded me the opportunity to cook more, initiate a Zoom gathering with my family who is spread across the country, and reach out to members of this congregation that perhaps I have only had casual conversations with up to this time. So when you are done with your cranky day, remember to pause and find one thing for which to be grateful. I know I am thankful for all of you and I do miss you!

Remember to gather your branches and communion elements for our Palm Sunday worship and start to think about what you might want to place on your home altar.

Blessings beloved and take time today to be thankful!



Pastor Brooke

