

Thoughts from Pastor Brooke for April 17, 2020

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. ~ Psalm 16:1

Your pastor needs to be honest. As I sit here writing this, I am cranky! I am cranky about things people have said to me, I'm cranky about the snow, I'm cranky about technology, I'm cranky about not knowing when we will all be able to gather together again, and I'm cranky about how we **can** gather together safely. And then I read the first line of our Psalm for this week. Oh, I'm still cranky, but it reminds me of a few things.

First, when I'm cranky, God can handle it. I can rant, I can cry, I can even use not very Godly language and God will listen. We are reminded in the scriptures that there is nothing we can do that can separate us from the love of God. Now, I may need to go back and apologize for some of the things I have said afterwards because, frequently, I am reminded by God that God is God and I am not. Those other people are also God's beloved, the snow is part of God's creation, if we didn't have technology it would be far more difficult to stay in contact with all of you, and no matter how we gather, God is with us.

Secondly, God provides a place of refuge for me (and you) and I need to be reminded of that. When what is happening around me feels like too much, God is there with loving arms to welcome me and comfort me. Going to God in prayer — not just for others but for myself — is important. I suspect each of you are really good at offering prayers up for others and maybe even prayers for patience during this time, but sometimes I just need to ask God to remind me that God loves me — and you. I hope you know this, but isn't it nice to be reminded of it?

Finally, God will protect me and you. That does not mean that we might not encounter bad things — because we surely will — but God will be with us in the midst of those things. God protects us from ourselves sometimes; from saying things we might regret, from making foolish decisions, from worry. God reminds us — when we go to God — that God is our protector and refuge.

So in these uncertain times, rest in the assurance that God is with us, loves us (even when we're cranky), and will not desert us. May your cranky days be less cranky and may you find joy in the small things.

Blessings,



Pastor Brooke

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