



## Reflections from Pastor Brooke for July 3, 2020

*God is faithful in every word, and gracious in every deed. God upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. ~ Psalm 145:14*

**Outdoor Worship begins July 12 at 9 a.m. Please bring your own chair, mask, and plan on maintaining a 6-foot distance as we meet for a brief service on the front lawn.**

God is faithful in word and gracious in deed. Whew! I'm so glad to be reminded of that, and also that God will pick us up when we fall. We have been worshiping outside the building since March 22. That's approximately 1/3 of a year; 4 months; 16 weeks; 112 days; 2,688 hours; 161,280 minutes. There are days that perhaps we feel like one day holds 161,280 minutes!

It has been a while since I have told you how well you are doing with all of this. Believe me, I know it's not easy. I know that when you can't just click on Zoom and have it open up, it's frustrating. I know that you miss seeing people face-to-face. I know that it's summer and you want to be having fun, but now the numbers are going back up and it seems like we won't get to experience much fun this summer. But despite all of that, you have been doing this for 161,280 minutes (at least!). That is something for which to celebrate.

But the true thing to celebrate is that on the days when we feel like we cannot possibly do it for another minute, God is there to pick us up. Or maybe we're down on our knees crying out to God that we can't do it for another day; that's when God raises us up and reminds us that we do not have to do it alone. The psalmist did not write, "And God will make it all easy." However much we might wish that this phrase was in the Bible someplace, it is not. But God promises us that God will not leave us.

As I am gone for the next week letting God pick me up (there will be no Monday Musings or Friday Reflection next week), I hope you will find some time to allow God to pick you up as well. This is hard, but you have successfully done hard things for 112 days. Today, you only have to get through this day. You are doing well, my beloved congregation, let's keep moving forward.

*Blessings,*

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