



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
United Church of Christ



Reflections from Pastor Brooke for September 11, 2020

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light. ~ Psalm 36: 7-9

Where were you September 11, 2001? Most of us can answer that question quickly. It was certainly a day that changed each of us — and our world — forever. Many of us wondered where God was that day. But the psalmist reminds us that God is ever present and, in our darkest days, God is there to provide refuge.

September 11, 2020, is also a day in which we reflect the need for God's love and light. The isolation continues; or, we are letting down our defenses and cases of COVID-19 are rising. I pray daily for teachers, administrators, parents, and students who are making difficult decisions about what is best for educating our young people. I am simultaneously sad and terrified as I see pictures of kids' first day of school that include either photos of them sitting at a computer or kids masked and heading into a school building. I have said over and over that there is no good answer to what is best. I have fielded calls of frustration from my sister this week, seeking help with Zoom, and watched my housemate try to help parents and fourth-graders navigate a completely different and unfamiliar platform.

God does offer us light; but God doesn't promise us that it will not be difficult. Whether you are someone struggling with isolation, debating whether it's safe to go to book club socially distanced, or helping your child succeed in school this year, please know that God is with you. It doesn't mean that God is going to make everything easy, but it means that, at the end of the day, we can give thanks that God was with us in the difficulties.

God was with us on September 11, 2001, and God remains with us on September 11, 2020. Take a moment today and look for where God's light is shining in your life amidst the darkness.

Blessings,

Pastor Brooke