

## Psalm 8

A devotion by Rev. Lisa

We start this day with a song of praise, as the psalmist proclaim with joy the glory of the Lord. Proclaiming that all of the world is able to see and praise the Lord, even from the mouth of infants shall come prayers of praise to their great creator. This is not often something that we think about in our life, about how everything around is able to praise the Lord, in this day and age many people only think about praising the Lord in our time of worship. But where in your life do you find yourself praising the Lord? Do you always need to use words? What are some of the ways in which you find your self praising the Lord? Make a list each day of three new things in which you can praise the Lord, and look at this list each Sunday morning as you prepare yourself to come and worship the Lord.

The psalmist proclaims that they find their salvation in the Lord, as the Lord is able to protect them from that wrath of their enemies, but what stood out to me this day was that the Lord is also able to still the avenger. This past week we have seen riots break out due to the anger in the United States, as people felt that was the only response to the anger of another senseless death of a black man. And yet this day's reading reminds us that God is able to help us move forward from this point, that God can help us to bridge the gap between races, so that no one will feel the need to avenge a wrong, for only with God are we able to find a lasting peace.

This day's reading also remind us of God's unending love, as the psalmist reflects upon the fact that the Lord who created the stars in the sky, and all the know world around us, and yet he still loves each and everyone of his beloved people. That the Lord has places us so high in his world, as we have been crowed in his glory and honour and given stewardship over all the earth. How does this statement make you feel? Do you ever start your day by proclaiming to yourself in the mirror that you are crowed with God's glory? If not, how do you think that this statement could frame you day, or the way in which you see those whom you meet?

What come to you mind when you hear that God has given us dominion over the works of God's hands? And how have you seen your understanding of this gift change as you have grown into your faith?

The psalmist ends his prayer once again proclaiming the glory of the Lord. What words would have used to proclaim the majestic of God's name.

## 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

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This day's reading seems worlds away from where we are right now, as we watch the news, we do not feel peaceful. When we go outside things do not seem to be in good order, as were still trying to figure out how to live in a Covid world. And yet Paul's words linger in our ears and our hearts, as we seek to understand and dream about what a world at peace would feel like. I invite you take a moment to think about what the word peace means to you personally. What is your image of a world at peace, or even what your own life would look like if you were at peace?

What does this look like, is it a day where nothing goes wrong? Or a time when there is no worry or fear in your life? Does peace mean that everyone in your family is not fighting with each other? Or does it mean something more?

Peace is a hard word for us today to define, as we don't fully understand what Peace is or could be, so instead we tend to define it as the absence of things, of violence of anger, of hatred, of fear. And while these are all good places to start Paul in this days writing is not only talking about the absence of negative things when he describes living in peace with each other, he is also talking about the abundances of all the good things that our God wants to give to his beloved people. For God's Peace is more than there being no fear, no hatred, no rage, instead it is a life that is full of love, of joy, of a community looking out for each other, praying for each other no matter what.

Imagen for a moment what this could look like today, as we live in a world that is far from peaceful, but imagen what it could look like to live in a world where another black man does not need to live in fear of the police, to live in a world where the police are not even needed as instead people come together respecting each others as being good and made in the image of the living God. Imagen that there are no more mothers or fathers afraid of sending their children out the doors because they know that the entire community is looking out for them, is wanting the best for their children, and love them as their own family. This is what the peace of the Lord looks like, and this is the peace that Paul is inviting us to not only dream about but to take the steps to move towards. By first asking God for his peace, and then allow this overwhelming peace to spread out through out our lives, and into the world around us. This is what Paul means when he states that we should live in good order, that we should live in a way that allows God's perfect peace to pour out of our lives and into the world around us.

This day Paul challenges us to greet one another in the name of the Risen Christ, to allow God's grace to be present in our lives, and in the world around us, and I believe that even during these non-peaceful time we are seeing this happen. As neighbour comes to stand with neighbour, holding hand in hand as they demand justices, and equality for all of God's people, we see this as many officers stand with those who are being oppressed, and taking a risk on path to reconciliation. And we as followers of Christ are called to do the same, to allow our voices to cry for justice, for God's Holy Peace to be found through out our land, for this is what it means to follow Jesus. The one who was willing to leave behind the 99 safe sheep to go and save the one that was in danger.

Genesis 1:1-4

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In this morning reading we are brought back to the very beginning, the foundation of the world as we know it, as we read the first four Genesis, and there are a few things that I want us to focus on today as we anew the story of how our God created the world. One of the first things that I want us to take note of is that at the very beginning of our world God was there, think about it before the earth was formed our great creator was there, watching over what would become our earth. The author of Genesis describes that before the world before it was created the Holy Spirit hovered over the empty darkness.

With this in mind were able to boldly proclaim that our God is with us always, before we first drew breath, He was with us, before the earth was formed God was with us, and his Holy Spirit was present. The very first thing that God created was light, and God proclaimed that it was good. This calls for us to reflect upon what light means for us as followers of Jesus. As the symbol of light is often used in scripture to describe what God is doing in our world. So what do you think of when you think about light? Do you ever stop to think about how light is able to change our world, to make things grow, to help lift our spirit? Think back to the last time you had to sit through a black out, how did you feel having to sit in the darkness, and wait for the light to return?

Why do you think that God chose to use light as a symbol of his love and grace in our world today? What are some of the scriptures that speak about light in regards to the God's interaction with the world? Which one is your favorite?

How do you think that you could shine the light of Jesus, in the world today, as we live in a time when we need God's good light now more than ever?