

Devotion, Week of December 1, 2024

Rev. Jeanne Simpson

I will be using the advent devotions from The Light of Grace this month as we prepare for this child to come among us once more.

And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you. Psalm 39:7

Sometimes the darkness that needs the light of grace is quite personal. In the final days before his death, King David shares the darkness of his own transgressions and his sufferings at the hands of his enemies. His troubles are too much for him to bear. Yet he puts his trust in God and declares God as the source of his hope.

We cannot put our trust in our own strength and resources, for they always come up lacking. Our own times of waiting are filled with many an anxious thought. But God in Christ is the bedrock of all our hope. We wait upon the merciful hand of our Lord and grasp this gracious hope by faith, even in the hour of death.

Jesus never leaves us mired in personal darkness. The light of Christ takes us to where he is, where there is suffering no more. It is in this hope that we sing these glorious words of "Amazing Grace:"

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail

And mortal life shall cease,

I shall possess, within the veil

A life of joy and peace.

When our sins and sorrows overwhelm us, and when the shadows of death encroach upon us, we pray for God to fill us with the strong assurance of hope that will never fade. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Jeanne