

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

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## The Breath of the Artist

Like a magician's wand  
the stroke of a tiny paintbrush transforms  
this blank canvas into a thing of beauty  
you cannot take your eyes away from.

Like a fine wish bringer  
a stroke of a wide paintbrush transforms  
the brick wall into an interesting mural  
expressing hope in the neighborhood.

Like a magic scepter  
a stroke of a paint roller transforms  
the drywall into a bright and colorful  
room that brings comfort for those inside.

If, by the stroke of a paintbrush  
transformation is possible, let's act  
as fine hairs assembled, to change our  
culture  
into one less violent and deadly.

Let's show our faith in God  
by turning away from power over  
vulnerable children and adults in  
public schools and wide-open spaces.

Continued

## ***Psalm 97***

The Lord rules! Let the earth rejoice! Let  
all the islands celebrate!

<sup>2</sup>Clouds and thick darkness surround  
God whose throne is built on  
righteousness and justice.

<sup>3</sup>Fire proceeds before him, burning up  
his enemies on every side.

<sup>4</sup>God's lightning lights up the world; the  
earth sees it and trembles!

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the  
Lord, before the Lord of the whole world!

<sup>6</sup>Heaven has proclaimed God's  
righteousness, and all nations have seen  
his glory.

<sup>7</sup>All those who worship images, those  
who are proud of idols, are put to shame.  
All gods bow down to the Lord!

<sup>8</sup>Zion has heard and celebrates, the  
towns[a] of Judah rejoice, because of  
your acts of justice, Lord,

<sup>9</sup>because you, Lord, are the Most High  
over all the earth, because you are so  
superior to all other gods.

*Continued*

## The Breath of the Artist

Continued

It's not too late to pray  
and act in ways that show we truly  
believe that all are beloved children of  
God, worthy of a life well lived.

As the breath of our Creator  
transformed the chaos into beauty  
may we breathe in peace to create safety  
and protection for all beings.

*Continued*

## **Psalm 97**

<sup>10</sup> Those of you who love the Lord, hate  
evil! God guards the lives of his faithful  
ones, delivering them from the power of  
the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> Light is planted like seed for the  
righteous person; joy too for those whose  
heart is right.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the Lord, righteous ones!  
Give thanks to God's holy name!

## **All You Need is God**

Psalm 97 is a reminder that God is it! When idolizing our purchases and heroes we sometimes live as though there are many gods. Then something horrific occurs and we tend to think that the bad guys are winning. We live in fear of those who murder, steal, and bully. Driving becomes more problematic as we are affected by those who drive at high rates of speed and intentionally run very red traffic lights.

The earth was healing itself when we were stuck at home during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic, but once again the threat of global warming increases.

However, this Psalm and the whole of scriptures, repeatedly remind us that God is always faithful. The Resurrection reminds us that God will win out in the end!

“The lives of the faithful will be rescued from the hand of the wicked” writes the Psalmist. Whether living or dying, our souls are safe in the Lord.

*We pray that you will know the grace of God is upon and within you.*

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler