

*peace be with you*

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

## Pax Magna

Unexpectedly, a smoky-hued cloud floats swiftly across the upper atmosphere standing out against unremarkable white fluff and blue sky.

A diverse angel squad rides this cloud and looks down at struggling humans dispersing in all directions seen in the chaos of the city far below.

From the angel squad I hear kind voices, "Have no judgment of one another so you can receive our Creator's peace and leave fear behind."

One may think it strange when hearing my report but I felt as though I was riding that speedy cloud with the angels and they were whispering in my ears.

You see, lately it seems like the roads go uphill both ways, and it helps to go skyward and get a new perspective, then gaze again while climbing.

That very moment I felt peace and calm as not experienced before or at least in recent memory when anxiety thrives.

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## **Luke 6: 37-42**

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the

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## Pax Magna

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In this space I turn my heart towards  
the divine and my heart gradually fills  
with mysterious  
Holy Light and Love so finely tuned.

## ***Luke 6: 37-42***

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plank in your own eye? You  
hypocrite, first take the plank out  
of your eye, and then you will see  
clearly to remove the speck from  
your brother's eye.

## **It's Not Ours to Judge . . .**

It is magnificent when we refrain from judging and instead look into the heart of another, to see their God-given essence. There are any number of things that may bother us about people. Perhaps there are irritating sounds they make, a twitch or the way they appear at times. Political or social views can get in the way of our relationships, too.

I know that I am guilty and certainly am not proud of any judgments I make.

The likelihood of flying on a cloud with angels is small, but when using our imaginations our minds drift from judgment and lean eventually into forgiveness. It's good to keep practicing seeing beauty around us, being grateful for it, and letting judgments go so that we can forgive.

Jesus knew the key to forgiveness was first seeing the "plank" in our own eyes, then allowing our hearts to be softened upon realizing our own humanity.

*May you hear the voice of the angels and be at peace!*

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler