

peace be with you

weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

Refreshing Unity

At times, there are two or three,
or perhaps fifty to sixty,
gathered in God's name
when a thick cloud of holiness
falls upon them while the
choir sings "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the
Sound."

This other time, roads are blocked
and police keep watch while two
thousand people gather
in mass on September 11, 2022.
We breathe and remember
hushed as the Spirit brings healing and love.

Reflectively, we hum
"Bridge Over Troubled Water"
along with this chorus
who figured out a while ago
that our One God loves
every single person magnificently.

Sneakers, straw hats, and baseball
caps are seen beginning the
dance of the pilgrimage
encircling Abraham's Bridge where
Jewish, Christian, and
Muslim faiths are unified in Love.

September 14, 2022

Psalm 133

Look at how good and pleasing it is
when families[a] live together as one!

²It is like expensive oil poured over the
head, running down onto the beard —
Aaron's beard! — which extended over
the collar of his robes.

³ It is like the dew on Mount Hermon
streaming down onto the mountains of
Zion, because it is there that the Lord
has commanded the blessing:
everlasting life.

Rooted in Love

When at peace with myself, the idea of
world peace being possible seems
more likely. Yet, when my insides are
in turmoil and all I can do is put my
head in my hands, horrified at what
I've said or done, I am able to
understand more fully why peace
seems more difficult.

Continued

Rooted in Love

Continued

Forgiveness, one of the vital pieces of living a life of faithfulness, often begins with the observance of nature. If for a moment we are in awe of the phases of the moon, the sunrise and sunset, and thousands of green blades of grass growing, we are distracted from our troubles and anger may be released. Pulling weeds and trimming branches is a cathartic action that can lead to forgiveness!

Last week my husband and I saw the tree that is certified as being the oldest in Nebraska. In its thick, heavily knotted trunk, the three large branches are not symmetrical. However imperfect, they are still strong enough to withstand nearly 500 years of storms, drought, and winds.

God has built us in a similar way. When we reach our arms up in prayer and extend our roots into the ground, we are renewed and refreshed, prepared to live in love and peace.

Know that we pray for you with thanksgiving and in peace. God's awesome love resides within you and me.

God's love and peace be with you,

Marta

Rev. Marta Wheeler

Sermon-By-Phone

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Each week, a timely message and scripture are available simply by making a phone call!