# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

### **Inviting Hope**

I am of the nature to be quite patient most of the time but not now.

The plaid flannel shirt, soft as a puppy's ear offered warmth all winter, is already

put in storage in my impatient mind where I'm tired of sleet and snow dead leaves.

Hanging in closet are greys, deep reds, for now alternating hangers with bright

colors that will surely soon erupt with spring grasses, dandelions, and spears

Continued

#### March 1, 2023

#### Psalm 121

I raise my eyes toward the mountains.

Where will my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

God won't let your foot slip.
Your protector won't fall asleep on the job.

No! Israel's protector never sleeps or rests!

The Lord is your protector; the Lord is your shade right beside you.

The sun won't strike you during the day; neither will the moon at night.

The Lord will protect you from all evil; God will protect your very life.

The Lord will protect you on your journeys whether going or coming from now until forever from now

# Sermon-By-Phone 402-210-2091

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

## **Inviting Hope**

continued

of asparagus, daffodils, and tulip blooms, forsythia, magnolia.

Cold refreshing air inhaled transmits this grand sense of calm and peace. So nice. From the Desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler March 1, 2023

Imagine the Jewish people climbing the hills towards the grand Temple in Jerusalem while singing Psalm 121, following the lead of the cantor.

Even today we are encouraged to trust more fully in God's protection, in all circumstances and in all times.

- 1 It helps to pray for one another and invite God's peace into our restlessness.
- 1 It is good to invite God into our weakness and fragility, asking for strength.
- 1 It is a valuable practice to invite God into the deepest part of our anxiety,
- <sup>⊥</sup> then pray for a sense of calm.

Especially during the wilderness of Lent, when we each do our part to release all that keeps us from true unity with God, we become stronger and more faithful as individuals. The world needs us to be an intentionally loving congregation, keeping our eyes open for those who need us, and guarding our mouths that we do not harm with words.

The light of Christ shines brighter and purer within our hearts when we pray, trust, and connect with the divine each day.

In gratitude we pray for each of you,



Rev. Marta Wheeler