

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler  
SAINT PAUL BENSON

*March 22, 2023*

## Welcoming Spring

While lacking view of winter's  
hidden vibrancy  
hope still arises this Vernal Equinox.

Possibilities of new  
life draw us to welcoming Spring

this eternal miracle  
of Mother Earth tilting  
on her axis while spinning in

space is most incredible  
magnificent, and lovely.

Together with the holy  
rotation, our breaths deepen  
equally inhaling and exhaling

air warming as our spirits  
unfurl from protective curling

against the cold of winter.  
By new moon dark skies  
overflowing clouds pour out rain.

Continued

## Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,  
Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

I wait for the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

God himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

## Sermon-By-Phone

**402-210-2091**

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

# Welcoming Spring

continued

Huge flocks of robins arrive  
filling tree after tree with orange.

Divine Nourishing Energy  
balances the cycles  
of death and rebirth, dark and light

appearing right before our eyes  
and Spring is gently welcomed here.

From the Desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler  
March 22, 2023

Last Sunday, our congregation welcomed our new Great Plains Conference Bishop David Wilson. We were nearly as expectant of our new bishop as we are for spring to arrive following months of cold and snow! Through stories of his mother and the small church that nurtured him in his early years (and continues to do so), he reminded us in many ways of the United Methodist connection of which we continue to be a proud part. Bishop Wilson is the first Native American to hold this important leadership role.

It's a big deal for him and for us! As time goes on, we will continue to learn more about how his life and ours intersect.

This week's Psalm is a prayer for all times. When suffering, we really do need to know that someone is with us in our trials. Eventually, all of us go through the valley of the shadow of death and in desperation may cry out in a voice we may not recognize,

*“Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice.  
Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.”*

Yet suffering does not tell the entire story of our lives. Especially in times of uncertainty, God meets us where we are and gives us hope through unfailing love and forgiveness. Signs of hope and assurance will appear for those who wait. I felt assured of hope last Sunday when hearing the music and watching the congregation come up for Holy Communion. Seeing the leaves of the daffodils, tulips, crocus, and iris popping through the mulch is another sign.

So, let's unfurl our winter hearts and prepare to be nurtured by the beauty of nature! Coming soon to a garden spot near you.

In gratitude we pray for each of you,

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler