

Saturday, May 6, 2023

INVITATION:

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”
(John 11:25-26)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG: Psalm 81:8-16

Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—
if you would only listen to me, Israel!
You shall have no foreign god among you;
you shall not worship any god other than me.

I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.
“But my people would not listen to me;
Israel would not submit to me.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own devices.
“If my people would only listen to me,
if Israel would only follow my ways,
how quickly I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!

Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.
But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

PRAYER:

Jesus, open my eyes to see You today. At Your invitation, may I embrace interruption and inconvenience as a means of transformation.

Father, I call to mind a person inconveniencing me at the moment. I pray for Your blessing on them, and I ask that, even now, I would see Christ's face in theirs, embracing inconvenience as an invitation from Your Spirit.

Jesus, thank You for the gift of life to the full! I repent of my part in cursing Your good creation. Like Adam and Eve before me, I have chosen my own way. Thank You for drinking my cup of suffering that I might again taste of true life. As the magi did at first, I offer back to You as a gift what You've given me – my whole life.⁷

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

*for those in our community in the midst of unhealthy relationships

*for protection for the youth of our communities

*for those still rebuilding after the extreme storms in California earlier this year

What else do you want to talk to God about?

How is God inviting you to respond?

BLESSING:

May our hearts sing of love

pouring out upon a tree.

May our hearts sing of peace

that can calm an angry sea.

May our hearts sing of joy

in forgiveness, grace, mercy.

May our hearts sing of faith

in a God who sets us free.

May our hearts sing of life

lived well and abundantly.

May our hearts sing, always. Amen.⁵