

Saturday, May 20, 2023

INVITATION:

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Ps 24:1)

Pause and slow your breath before entering into prayer.

BIBLE SONG: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

PRAYER:

Lord, help me now to unclutter my life, to organize myself in the direction of simplicity.

Lord, teach me to listen to my heart; teach me to welcome change, instead of fearing it.

Lord, I give you these stirrings inside me. I give you my discontent. I give you my restlessness. I give you my doubt. I give you my despair. I give you all the longings I hold inside.

Help me to listen to these signs of change, of growth; help me to listen seriously and follow where they lead through the breathtaking empty space of an open door.⁷

Pause and listen for what God is saying to you.

INTERCESSION:

*for God to create in us a hunger to know God more

*for nurses and doctors and all those who work in our health care systems

*for those in Turkey without homes because of the earthquake

What else do you want to talk to God about?

How is God inviting you to respond?

BLESSING:

May you know the warmth

of God's loving embrace

May you know the joy

of God's ever-presence

May you know the peace

of God's gentle whisper

May you know the strength

of God's Spirit within you

this day and always in your life. Amen.⁵