

December 10, 2017

Psalm 85:8-13
II Peter 3:8-15a

Wow, what a week! – Life in turmoil

How has your life been?

As if nationally and internationally things
weren't bad enough

Wow! How I long for Advent waiting, for
peace:

“Surely God’s salvation is at hand for those
who fear God,

that God’s glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each
other.”

Really? I fear God with deep, deep reverence,
but “Righteousness and peace will kiss”? –
I’m not feeling it

That’s why I’m here – to learn to wait

- To wait with hope
- To wait with peace

When life gets out of hand, when adversity
overwhelms, when violence seems so near, I
come here to learn, to practice waiting

And, to be reminded “With God, one day is as
good as a thousand years, a thousand years
as a day. God isn’t late with God’s
promise.”

The promise?

“The galaxies will burn up and the elements
melt down that day – but we’ll hardly
notice. We’ll be looking the other way,
ready for the promised new heavens and the
promised new earth, all landscaped with
righteousness.”

The hope we wait with is a hope for “a new
heaven and a new earth”

This hope is the first small light in the darkness
of our fear and anxiety

We light this light when we step out in the
darkness – an act of faith that feeds hope,
grows hope

In the same way, this week, we light the candle
of peace, we wait with peace,

but, for this to happen, we must step out in
faith
“salvation is at hand for those who fear God”
We must trust in God, a trust fed by hope
The hope light, this hope fed trust, allows us
peace – a small light, a beginning
Like the slow, deep breathes we take in when
panic threatens to overwhelm us
God’s peace slowly calms us
Hope give just enough light to allow us to
glimpse the light of peace
And the two lights begin to dispel the darkness
This is what Paul meant when he wrote: “So,
my dear friends, since this is what you have
to look forward to, do your very best to be
found living at your best, in purity and
peace. Interpret our Master’s patient
restraint for what it is: salvation.”
In these fearful, anxious days – whether
personal circumstances or world events –
Wait with hope; stop rushing around, even if
you only stop for five minutes, and breathe

Slow, deep breathes; slow calming breathes;
slow, expectant breathes; breathes that are
nothing more and nothing less than waiting
with peace
When you are there, name that light that is
lightening your load – it is God’s peace
There is nothing magical about this, as
miraculous as it might feel
It is you, owning what God has promised
It is you, living into what you pray for
God does not work miracles for you; God
works miracles through you
You are now half way to Christmas, to Christ’s
light
Your waiting with hope, leads to peace, and
God’s peace leads to joy
Next Sunday’s focus.
Thanks be to God! Amen.