

# Looking for the Light

a devotional from  
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

by Meg Gammage Kramer

## Read:

*Psalm 118:14-24*

The Lord is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.

Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

"The Lord's right hand has done mighty things! The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!" I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

## Reflect:

As I sat down to write today's devotional, I grabbed a few of my daily devotional books and flipped through some important dates for my family. I want to share with you one from "Daily in His Presence" by David Jeremiah, for my birthday, August 10th, which speaks on Infinite Goodness. It talks about the Asiatic cholera in 1849 that killed 4,500 people in St. Louis, 3,000 in New Orleans and 5,000 lives in New York City. Isn't this similar to what we're experiencing today? As a result of the plague, President Taylor declared a National Day of Fasting, calling Americans to "humble themselves before His throne." Taylor asked our nation to acknowledge the Infinite Goodness which has watched over our existence as a nation, and so long crowned us with manifold blessings and to implore the Almighty in His own good time to stay the destroying hand." On August 3, 1849, Americans filed into churches to unite and pray and by the end of the month the death toll had "dropped suddenly."

When I became a mom, I knew structure and consistency would make our daily routine easier, so I've kept the same sort of OCD pattern in our daily lives since Walter was born. Some days and months have been a little unstructured, but we get back to our routine most days. Now that our daily lives have taken a bit of a turn, what is consistent in your life? What structure do you have; coffee, prayer, work, nature walks, cooking, cleaning? What about your weekly church service, Easter service, family meals, birthday parties?

I think all of our constants have changed over the past month. So, when planning for Easter we all had to diverge from the regular plan, right? In my home, Easter "fancy" dress was optional, but we still dressed up, had the service on our TV from the link on [scapc.org](http://scapc.org), and ate some good food; but did anyone celebrate the resurrection with your parents or grandparents or close

friends? Sadly, we didn't. Everyone has been urged to stay home so it wasn't a choice this year. I was sad leading up to the day thinking about not being able to spend it with my parents or my grandmother who is bed bound, so I did some reflecting up to Easter day. I came to the conclusion that it's okay. Easter is about reflecting on what His Hand has done for us. He gave his life for our sins. *"Our world is stained by sin, filled with suffering, and subject to plagues. But there's never a time we can't humble ourselves before God's throne, acknowledge our sins, and ask for a continuance of divine mercy. His all-powerful hand can preserve and protect us, and his infinite wisdom can direct our affairs."*

Mary Glenn Peeples quotes, in her "Hope" series, 1 Peter 4:12-13, which says, "Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner."

**Ask:**

What can you do to keep God as the constant in your life during this time? What can you do to give thanks to the Lord and serve others? What will you do when glory comes from around the corner; tithe, practice fasting, exercise more, daily prayer, attend church more often, join a committee within the church to help serve others?

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, may we all go out into the world with an open and loving heart and serve others in need. May we all go out and enjoy this beautiful Spring life you've given us and remember it's a gift from you; the baby ducklings, the new flowers, food on our table, water to drink, and a loving church family who prays for each and every one of us. Amen.



*To send us your prayer requests, click on [this link](#) and our church staff and prayer group will add you to our weekly prayer list. You will have the option to specify your request as confidential.*

*If you would like to contribute to our daily devotionals, please email Pastor Sarah, [sarah@scapc.org](mailto:sarah@scapc.org).*

[www.scapc.org](http://www.scapc.org)



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