# *Third Street Presbyterian Church (USA*

# *Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, December 2, 2020 - 6pm*

**Introductions/ Welcome - Pastor Reid**

**Opening Prayer: Elder Charles Whiteside**

**Opening Song: Elder Lowery Music Ministry**

**The Word: Psalm 124** (ESV) English Standard Version- **Deacon Dorothy Costner Reading**

### *Our Help Is in the Name of the Lord- A Song of Ascents of David.*

**124**If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—
    let Israel now say—**2**if it had not been the Lord who was on our side  when people rose up against us,**3**then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;**4**then the flood would have swept us away,  the torrent would have gone over us;**5**then over us would have gone    the raging waters.**6**Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!**7**We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers ;the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

**8**Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

 **Reflection** *– Deacon Lois Camp - Reading*

Psalm 124 is a Psalm commonly attributed to David. It teaches the people of God the value and wisdom of pausing for the purpose of review, reflection and response to the perils of life. This leads to a growing understanding of the mercy and faithfulness of God by seeing more clearly his care and protection.

The psalmist uses striking flood imagery to highlight the difference the Lord makes in all our dangerous situations. “If the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked,” the psalmist says, “they would have swallowed us alive; the flood would have engulfed us, the raging waters would have swept us away.”

This is no slow rising of water causing flooding damage in your home. This is a flash flood where the rushing waters swallow you alive, sweeping you and everything else away in its path.

If The Lord had not been on our side our lives would have been over. Think about all that is going on in the world today, a pandemic, racial divide, war, hunger, political issues, unemployment, injustice and the list goes on and on. The psalmist holds on to hope that we must, praise God for protection and deliverance in our lives, we must speak out and say that God makes a difference in our lives and we must tell somebody what the Lord has done for us. We should not be ashamed to let others know we are Christians and that we’re still here because the Lord is on our side!!

This season of Advent encourages us to look with expectation that Jesus is coming into the world as a baby in a manger. The God of Advent and Christmas gives us hope. This is the Living God who came down and delivered us!

Are you speaking out today? Are you a witness for God and telling others of the miracles in your life? Have you told them “If it had not been for the Lord on my side where would I be?”

**Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion**

*Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as people of faith.*

1. What verse(s) in these passages stand out to you or have special meaning to you? Why?
2. According to the psalmist, what if God was not for us? (verses 1-5).
3. Look for the theme of God’s people being in danger in Psalm 124. Now read *1Peter 5:8 and Ephesians 6:12*. How do these verse relate to this danger? Who puts God’s people in danger?
4. Who gets the glory for the people’s escape?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Which verses reference this? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does this Psalm say about nature, God’s Creation?
6. How does Romans 12:3 relate to Psalm 124?

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**

In the midst of all that is taking place, we have to keep our focus on the Lord. The Lord is on our side! As Christians, we should focus less on the troubles of life and more on the Lord. Focus on how God’s deliverance has come to us in the past. During this time of Christmas and Advent, we must know and expect that God’s deliverance will come to us now and in the future! Reflect o Psalm 124 in your walk with God.

**What Inspires you these days?**

It may seem like there is little today to inspire us. Hold on to inspiration find it in the midst of troubling times. Where do you find inspiration and hope these days? Is it a song, hymn, scripture or special reading? How has it helped inspire you? If you feel led, please share with the group.

﻿**Faith in Action:** The physical church doors are closed but we are the distance church wherever we are. Give, share, pray, reach out ***We are the Church.*** Reaching out, text, call, email, US mail or virtual, that is our mission as the Body of Christ.

Our denomination upcoming Presbyterian Church Wide offering ***Christmas Joy* Offering Nov. 29-Dec. 20. 2020**. More information: Here is the link, click on offerings: https://specialofferings.pcusa.org

**Thank you to everyone for any donations and gifts to keep this ministry supported financially.**

**Evening Prayer- Pastor Reid**

**Please lift people who suffer with loss in so many ways, the pandemic, unemployment, hunger, homelessness, and systemic racial injustice, pray for those impacted by natural disasters, frontline workers and families during this time of intercessory prayer. You may want to list prayer request in your prayer journal and pray continue to pray.** *Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

**Closing Song: Elder Lowery Music Ministry**

**Words of Sending:**

**A Hopeful Benediction**
**L: Be people of hope.
Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.
Share hope by noticing someone else’s humanity.
Share hope by listening to someone’s story.
Share hope by praying for our world.
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.
As you go out into the wonder of God’s creations, share hope with those you meet. God in Peace. Amen.**

**Thank you for joining our Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer this week!**

**With the Love of Christ,**

**Pastor Reid**