



Monday Musing: Monday December 2, 2024.  
Shalom...

I have a very sweet friend who follows the *Musings* and other posts on my personal and church Facebook page. We also like to go to plays and to dinner too! Elaine knows that I refer to anything that looks like a daisy as a God-bit. She knows that I look for daisies, or daisy look-alikes, wherever I go and throughout the whole year. And when I find some, I remind myself God was, God is, and God will always be. I am never alone; however-it-is that I understand God to be.

Elaine walks early in the morning. Today she sent me this picture of God-bits covered with a light blanket of snow. And her comment was that when she saw these, she thought “about how beautiful they still are even in such harsh conditions. They are fragile but also so strong. I think lots of us need to find the strength in ourselves and in our God that these tiny flowers have.” What a beautiful thought. So, I asked Elaine if I might use her picture and her words for today. She agreed.

Finding strength during difficult times is often what we need. Sometimes that strength comes from within, and sometimes it comes from those with whom we walk in life and who care about us. And yes, strength also comes from our faith and our sense of inner peace.

This week moves us into the second week of Advent. This week is all about peace – peace within and peace in our worlds. There are many words for peace that we hear coming to us in different languages and more so today because our world is so much more closely linked. For me, the word for peace that means the most, or speaks to my heart and soul the most, is Shalom.

Shalom is a Hebrew word for peace. It is an ancient word from an ancient and modern language. It can be used as a way of saying hello. Shalom can also mean harmony, wholeness, completeness, tranquility, as in a peace within your heart, mind and soul. What a beautiful way to welcome, or even say goodbye to someone. Shalom. May you know deep peace. And for me, that deep peace is the peace that passes all understanding. That is God’s peace.

God’s peace is that we feel when in communion with God, each other and all of creation and it is a peace made from love and justice, fulfillment, joy and delight. Again, what a beautiful concept.

This word has a Hebrew root meaning to be safe in mind, body, and more. Isn't this a beautiful wish for each other, and especially if someone is needing strength during a fragile time in life? Like the daisies...

Shalom means peace. Salaam, in Arabic, also means peace, that same sense of deep indwelling peace. A Palestinian Christian may say Salaam because of their mother language being Arabic, not necessarily because of their religious faith. Either way, for Jew, Christian and Muslim, this deep peace is more than a cessation of conflict, violence and war. It is a sincere wish and hope for another to know in the depth of their being, the fullness of God's peace. And what a peace that would be for the world...

Shalom everyone, shalom,

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Prayer

God of peace,  
With us, within us and beyond us,  
May we know such peace,  
That it gives us strength when we're fragile.  
May we know such peace,  
That it might be carried by our words.  
May we know such peace,  
That it may be the gift we give  
To ourselves, each other, and the world.  
Amen.

Scripture this Week

Malachai 3:1-4	A refiner's fire and a launderer's soap.
Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah sings, "Blessed be God."
Philippians 1:3-11	I thank God every time I remember you.
Luke 3:1-6	A voice calling in the wilderness.

TR Question (theological reflection)

Compare Luke 3:4 with Isaiah 40:3. What do you see? What does this mean? From where is the voice calling? Is the voice calling from inside the wilderness or to the wilderness? Where is the path to be made, from inside the wilderness, or to the wilderness? How do we understand God and our parts in the making of the path?