

## **“God Our Help in Ages Past and Hope for Years to Come”**

*“O God our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home” (LBW #320 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”)*

Uncertainty hangs in the air these days. Questions abound!! Who will win in the upcoming elections and how will they govern? These questions are being asked at all levels, federal, state and local. What is going on with economy and what is it going to take to get it back on track? What does all this mean for my company and my job? How are we going to make the family finances cover all the expense we have? Questions of uncertainty may revolve around the relationships we have with one another? We may have questions of uncertainty related to our health or the health of a loved one.

You may know the famous quote “The only things that are certain in life are death and taxes.” Well uncertainty and change are normal parts of life. This year there seems to be a higher level than normal as we enter the holiday season. We may find that the uncertainty and change around us makes it hard for us to even think about the approaching holidays.

There are a number of certainties that we can cling to and that will get us through the uncertain times in our lives. We know that God is the maker of the universe. That God declared all things good and that God has promised to provide for His creation in all ways at all times. We know for certain that Jesus Christ died on the cross and arose to new life on Easter morning. Through his death and resurrection we have been given the promise of the forgiveness of our sins and life eternal. In our baptisms we have received the promise that the Holy Spirit is and will be active in our lives.

A major reason we celebrate the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons is to give thanks to our God for those certainties which sustain us in the midst of our daily struggles. The upcoming months provide us with intentional opportunities to pause and reflect on the many blessings God does provide for us. We can run our mind’s eye back over the year that is passing and see where God’s love, mercy and forgiveness has played an active role in all situations. Resting in the promises of God’s love and mercy we can glaze into the future not with fear and trembling but with hope and confidence that God himself will be present walking along side us each step of the way. We can find joy in the present for the many gifts of God that are at work right now in our lives.

It is important to do this reflection privately for ourselves but it is also important to gather with others and collectively give our thanks and praise to God. God desires us to live in community with Him and with one another. As a community of faith God works through us to provide care and support for those in need, and to encourage one another. As a community we at times are able to identify the blessings God has provided better than as an individual passing through the routines of daily life.

I invite you to join the gathered community of faith here at Trinity this Holiday season as we lift our voices in songs of praise, our hearts in prayer for the world around us, as we open our ears to the sharing of God’s Word, and our minds to the endless possibilities of God’s grace and love. May you have a blessed Thanksgiving Time and though uncertainties will swirl around you remember this “O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Still be our guard while troubles last! And our eternal home.”

God’s peace,

Pastor Brian

