

April 2020

Dear Friends,

In Times Like These (#232 Hymns and Songs of Zion), this song has been in my thoughts and voice for a while now. The author Ruth Caye Jones actually lived in my hometown, Erie PA, and with her husband had a radio ministry there for many years. It would appear from the date of the song in 1944 that she wrote it concerning World War II. Certainly, it is apropos to the situation we find ourselves in with the current covid virus turmoil. As the song reminds us we need a Savior, an anchor, someone who can hold us fast and reassure us in this storm. A good shepherd who will see us through even the valley of the shadow of death and bring us into lush, green pastures. Indeed that is what we have in Jesus, we have our Savior whose blood cleanses us from all iniquity, our anchor who steadies us in every storm, our rock as Mrs. Jones penned in the last verse. For this reason, even in times that cause great panic, we can proceed without fear, confident that we are under the watchful eye of our Father in heaven and kept tenderly in His protecting hand. So we must go forward now, not with fear, but rather with great assurance knowing that we can trust God to sustain us. We need to follow the CDC guidelines concerning washing our hands and maintaining social distance, even moving our services online and to teleconference to keep the vulnerable safe. Yet there are needs among the vulnerable population that we may be able to help fill, so we will need to keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to them to make sure those needs are met in any way we possibly can. While we must physically be isolated, we must congregate in spirit now more than ever and lift up and encourage one another. Likewise, as the opportunity presents itself, we need to share what we have with others so that all may come through this together with the minimum of suffering. Also we need to pray, prayer not only brings our petitions to God but in intercession our thoughts are directed away from ourselves to the plight of others. Our congregation is agreeing to pray for 5 minutes at noon eastern time to pray for an end to this virus and intercede for those around us. You can feel free to join us or set up a group to pray at a time more convenient for you. Let us be constantly in the spirit of prayer as God promises to hear our prayer and grant us what we ask. We do have a Savior in times like these who gave His life for all, may we be found walking in His footsteps and giving our all for Him.

This month we remember the single greatest act of grace in the history of humankind, the selfless death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His selfless act reminds us of the depth of the love and compassion God has for us. In overcoming sin and death Jesus brought the dawn of a new day, a new life, eternal and glorious. We join with one another, even though from a distance, on that day to give thanks to God for His grace beyond measure. In the spirit of Easter let us commemorate that day as those who have passed from death to life who greet every day as gift even in perilous times. Praise be to God for His inestimable gift!

We thank you for standing with us at this time through prayer and your gifts to us. We have moved all our classes to online only. You might wish, if you can't work, to join a class. They are in progress now but you could still follow along and we hope they might encourage and strengthen you. The study of God's Word is truly one of our greatest blessings from God. As Mrs. Jones wrote in the 2nd verse of her work. "In times like these you need the Bible,...." Contact us if you're interested. We are praying for the safety of all of you and our world in times like these.

God's Peace
Jay Weidner



Donations Received

In memory of Rick Hurula
from Steve & Marilyn Dahlmeier

In memory of Kathleen Forsman
from Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family

In memory of William Jarvi
from Pastor Ernest Bylkas III, Joy & family



Messages of comfort

Philippians 4:4-9 (KJV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.⁸ Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.⁹ Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Psalm 121 (KJV)

121 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.² My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.³ He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.⁴ Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.⁵ The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.⁶ The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.⁷ The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.⁸ The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

ATTENTION SUPPORTERS: There are several ways to support the Seminary.



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HERE'S ANOTHER WAY YOU CAN HELP THE SEMINARY

Several years ago, the Seminary board of directors established the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. Funds contributed to the endowment are not used for current day to day operations. Only the annual earnings of the endowment will be used for the seminary's needs thereby ensuring the continued existence of this funding source. This is the preferred method used by many non-profit entities, especially ongoing religiously focused organizations such as seminaries.

While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support.

Although the seminary still needs the financial ongoing regular contributions of our supporters, please consider the endowment fund for your planned giving needs. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.