

From the Pastor's home office (dining room table actually)

Psalm 61

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

**From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**

For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.

**I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of
your wings.**

**For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage
of those who fear your name.**

Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations.

**May he be enthroned in God's presence forever; appoint your love
and faithfulness to protect him.**

**Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and full fill my vows day
after day.**

This has been a rather difficult week for me. I was tired after doing all of the things that had to be done for Holy Week and Easter. I had to attend meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday and a stay at home order was looming on the horizon.

I thought that I had managed all of the stay at home orders over the past year with all of their changes of plans fairly well. Each one was getting a little easier as I knew what we needed to do for worship and how we needed to change our activities. This week, however, I found myself getting frustrated.

Somehow, I was already thinking about summer and where we had hoped we would go and deciding that even that would now not be possible. John and I would be stuck here in the Sault all summer and again not get our

trip out west accomplished. We would be stuck here and not even see any of our siblings. The summer would be so long.

I know that this sounds a bit whiny and I know that these were simply thoughts of a tired mind but these thoughts were still there and effecting how I was feeling. However, the meetings went better than anticipated. The Wednesday evening prayer session went really well with a couple of people saying that they really appreciated the words of the prayer. Then we called someone in the congregation and they told us how much the printed devotionals and sermons have meant to one of the older women in the congregation. She keeps them and reads her favourites when she is feeling a little down or lonely. Today, John and I received our first vaccination for covid 19 and ran into another person from the congregation. Pam was telling us how much one of the recipients of the Easter cards appreciated this gesture. The person was so pleased to find the card in their mail box that they had to call Pam to thank her. These small gestures and events just made the week better. God gave me beautiful gestures and stories to think about instead of focussing completely on the stay at home order.

Psalm 61 was the one we used Wednesday evening for the prayer session and I think describes the emotional ups and downs of this week. If your week was like this as well, I hope that you are also able to say at the end of it with me; "I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfil my vows day after day." May God bless you.