

It is Christmas week! A wonderful reminder of God's expression of grace and mercy towards us. He launched a rescue plan on our behalf—in a stable in Bethlehem. Only those with an open heart were aware that God was changing everything. I believe God is moving on behalf of His people once again. As before, it will require an open heart and a desire to cooperate in order to be a participant.

Let's not spend the holiday grieving what was left behind in the wake of Covid. Let's invite the Holy Spirit to help us understand the opportunities of this most unique time!

Hebrews 12:26-29 (NIV[®])

"Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷ The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our "God is a consuming fire."

Morning Prayer

Heavenly Father,

You are our Creator and the sustainer of all things. Deliver us from evil; keep us free from deception, and allow Your truth to grow within us. May Your Spirit give us a revelation of Jesus that will break the yoke of bondage over our lives. Strengthen us within that we might stand in Your authority. Thank You for redeeming our lives and preparing a future for us. Teach us to walk uprightly before You that we might be considered faithful servants, obedient friends of the King. In Jesus' name, amen.

Mid-Day Proclamation

"My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Luke 1:46-55 (NIV[®]) – Mary's Song

Proclamation of Faith

⁶⁸ "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us--

⁷² to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Luke 1:67-75 (NIV[®]) – Zechariah's song