

July 8, 2020

Dear Mutual Servants in Christ:

First of all, we are sorry this did not get sent off on July 1 like we planned. The last week has been chaotic here in Japan with a rain front that has settled into place and has brought a great deal of flooding in various places throughout the country. Already over 80 lives have been lost and they are thinking another 2-3 days of more rain is going to take place.

Please pray for people who have been (and will be) affected by this natural disaster. A major problem is that when many people have to be evacuated they are put into close quarters with others and of course that is not good because of the spread of Coronavirus. Also we ask for prayers for our college and Seminary. Currently the schools are deliberating about what to do for fall classes and having to make decisions. Pray for wisdom from the Lord. We are sure that you are dealing with similar issues in the States.



Below is some information about a project that Carol did when the pandemic started a number of months ago and we were in a lockdown situation. Please read about this below and then visit the site. The information below was actually sent to the churches a number of weeks ago, but there seemed to be some major internet issues and we are afraid the churches did not receive the emails sent. So, if this is the second time to receive this, forgive us.

One of our supporting congregations asked us for a short video, which we made and then put on Dropbox. The church could then download that and use it for their online communication to members. If other churches would be interested in such a thing, please let us know.

Jim and Carol Sack
Tokyo, JAPAN

To Those Related to the Global Missions Efforts
~~~Pastors, Committee Members~~~  
*Psalm of Silence*  
Video Visitation Invitation to Prayer

This is Carol Sack, one of your ELCA partners in mission, serving in Japan.

Jim recently sent a letter explaining our regret at not being able to visit you in person this summer. As we all know, travel is prohibited in various global directions. At the time of this writing, it is impossible for us to re-enter Japan upon leaving the country due to the pandemic.

My ministry is mainly in musical prayer at the bedside of hospice patients, along with doing retreats and classes on the spirituality of the Psalms. During this pandemic time, I am not able to go to the bedside. Classes and retreats have also been cancelled. But I kept thinking, "*NOW is the time that the message and spirit of the Psalms is most needed. What could we do?*" I shared this query with the president and a few others here at our Japan Lutheran Seminary. With their input, we put together a humble video series, "*Psalm of Silence*," each video about five minutes in length. In each one, I light a candle, read a verse from a Psalm (in Japanese and then in English), ring a "singing bowl", extend a few more moments of Silence, then close with a simple musical moment on harp and voice. The idea is for you to hear the Psalm verse, then in the silence to *listen to your heart as one specific prayer intercession comes forth, and to hold that prayer intention* through the music.

The site listed below is written in Japanese, but if you scroll down just a bit, there are twelve Psalm verses listed and a short introduction video in English. You can click on any one of these for a short meditative prayer time.

[http://www.luther.ac.jp/lutheran/about/dale\\_pastoral/psalmofsilence.html](http://www.luther.ac.jp/lutheran/about/dale_pastoral/psalmofsilence.html)

I realized I would like to share this with those of you involved in supporting our ministries here. You can hear the Bible verse read in Japanese (very short!), then in English~ and somehow that in itself seems like a lovely, simple way for us to share in this global Spirit of the Lord. Most of these were filmed in our living room, so in this way Jim and I can invite you into our home. Don't feel you need to see all of the entries! But I invite you to participate in one, as a kind of alternative way that we can be together prayerfully through the Spirit in these unusual times. As we know, the poignancy of the Psalms is timeless~ and both Silence and music transcend language barriers!

These videos are very simply done. I am not a professional musician, so they are not meant to be a polished musical thing, rather a time to share in a Psalm, and a way for us together to *put the quiet power of prayer out into the world*, from our respective locations and hearts. *Prayer changes the world*. And somehow, I think music does, too.

Gratitude, plenteous grace, health and creative ministry to you all,

Carol