

Good morning to all my friends and church family. I am so happy to greet you this morning and share with you the blessings of this glorious spring time! I am watching our dogwood tree come into bloom and it always makes me think Easter, a time of new life and hope! Our neighbors are working in their yards, planting flowers and beginning gardens, and we greet each other at a “distance,” still being neighborly. Nelson and I are blessed with wonderful, friendly and helpful neighbors, offering to get groceries for us, because we are older than they.

A passage of scripture that means so much to me is Psalm 46.

*“God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*

*though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.*

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.*

*God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.*

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*

*The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*Come and see what the Lord has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.*

*He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.*

*He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.*

*He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

*The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress."*

These verses give me comfort to know that God is in control of the universe and he cares about each one of us, because he made us and he loves us so much! We are living in a time of fear because there is so much we don't know, and I feel that this passage of scripture can strengthen our faith and trust in our loving and healing God. Many of us who performed in our Folk Opera 22 years ago remember the song "O Healing River, send down your waters and heal ths land." My prayers of healing, whether it be for fear or illness, are with you, and my trust is in God, the creator of this beautiful flowering earth around us.

May God bless you

Kathryn Baer