

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Proverbs 17.

Psalms 51:15 "O Lord, open my lips, that my mouth may declare Your praise." (NASU)

How many times has a song resonated within your soul. Listening to some of the old hymns reminds us of the faithfulness of our God. Songs like, "It Is Well With My Soul" have ministered to so many people going through crisis and whose lives have been shattered by pain and suffering.

Many know how the song was written out of sorrow. Horatio Spafford had lost most of his family at sea, and as he later crossed the Atlantic Ocean, the captain shared where his family was lost in a maritime accident.

But in many ways, this song is just a hymn of praise, sharing in the awareness that God is still with us, no matter what we face.

Yesterday, I shared Donna Mc., praise of God being with her in a moment of crisis as she faced knee replacement surgery. How she was frightened, even though she had been a nurse for 40 years.

After my text went out, I received this text from my friend Ken, whose wife, Janaan, is presently in the hospital awaiting a heart transplant as soon as a heart becomes available.

Here is Ken's text. "Perfect message for Janaan this morning." While I know the Psalms and all of scripture is inspired by God, the Psalms are reflections of praise, laments, cries for help, that we relate to. We, too, have faced our "Valley of the Shadow of Death." We, too, have cried out, "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me."

Donna, in her fear, prayed, trusted, and has now become an encourager to others, facing their own fears by faith because she shared her praise. Our praises not only go up to God,

but they go out to others facing the same situations we have/are facing. Thanks for sharing some praises with me.