

## FROM THE EDGE: The goodness of the Lord

### Psalm 27:13-14 (NRSV)

- <sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
<sup>14</sup> Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!

The psalmist says, “I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.” I know goodness when I see it, and I know hate when I hear it. Goodness fills my heart with joy, and hate sucks every ounce of joy from me.

Over the past several years, the land we live in seems to have lost much of its joy. A virus has haunted our every move, creating chaos and confusion in all we do. This disharmony has unleashed hate and the floodgates of prejudice have opened, again. The millstone of racism weighs heavy on our necks. No matter the one who rules, unless our voices meet on a level path, as the psalmist says, anger and false witnesses will always rise and breathe out hate.

Yet love will not die, voices rise to remind us to be strong, fill our hearts with courage, and “wait for the Lord!” Of course, waiting is an ambiguous action. Some say do nothing, God will take care of everything. The psalmist says, “the Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear.” Think of all the confusing messages we get in the course of a day... what if we followed our fear and never listened to God or the voice of reason? When the house is on fire, we must rise.

I have seen the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living, and I have seen too much hate. There are prophets among us; there always have been. Simeon knew he had seen the goodness of the Lord in the temple when he held Jesus in his arms (Luke 2:30). Elizabeth, too, knew she was in the presence of holiness even before Jesus was born (Luke 1:41). There are ordinary people among us, like Simeon and Elizabeth, and local pastors serving our churches, who show us this goodness. I am convinced that our nation and our world can be a place of peace where goodness conquers hate, as long as COS students like you, keep reminding us to make room for God's love.

So, as the seasons change, do not let your hearts be discouraged, for hope is among us, as near as our breath. As the psalmist tells us, God's light and salvation will break through our fear, and we will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

*So much sadness, so much sorrow, keep praying for tomorrow.*

*For truer than all truth we know, love will grow and continue on to flow.*