

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"God With Us" 2/23/22

The LORD said, "I will go with you and give you peace." (Ex 33:14)

God tells Moses "It's time to claim the land I promised your forefathers." But it is not a totally happy bon voyage, for God tells Moses, Godself will not be going with them. For if He did, He would consume them on the way, for they are a stiff-necked people. They have already turned away from the Lord and established their own god. However, the Lord promised an angel will go before them and drive out the enemies which stood between them and their destination. They won't be totally on their own.

This is an unexpected send off. The people mourned when they heard of God's disappointment in them.

We too turn from God in our actions and reactions. We rely on ourselves, turn to other gods, seeking an easier way, a sure-fire remedy, wealth, power. We want to sing, "I did it my way." We complain and connive. Then we pray for God's grace, His blessings, His presence in our lives.

It's all about me. We pray for God's mercy, yet want it our way, and wonder why the path is so crooked. Yet, when we look back, we see the danger, the precipice we could have fallen over, the monster which could have gotten us, the accident which didn't happen, the wave which didn't overwhelm, the fire which did not consume, the people who came along to encourage and uplift, the pile of firewood, the gift of food, the many blessings which we tripped over on the way. God is with us

Moses went to the tent to plead with God, reminding God these were His people. And God relented and agreed to go with them on the journey.

God sent His Son, Jesus the Christ to show us God's love, to open up our relationship with Godself. The Holy Spirit was sent to accompany us on our path. God keeps His word. And in His love, promises His people still today, "I will go with you and give you peace."

Please pray with me:

Loving God. Thank you for walking with us. You came as one of us to show us Your love, to be in relationship, to live, laugh, and love. We ask for forgiveness for when we turn from You to self. Help us to see Your presence on our journey as You travel with us and give us Your peace. Thank You for going before us on our way, for protecting us, for showing us Your mercy.

Amen.