

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Monday, Monday" 5/10/23

*My times are in Your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me. (Ps 31:15)*

We face so many enemies – oppression, depression, overworked, underworked, - work. There are physical enemies we face in war, in schools, on the streets, from bullies, from bad guys, from trusted people, from random people. Fear is an enemy, fear of failure, of financial shortfalls, of public speaking. But there are, also, mental enemies – feelings of I can't, I'm unloved, unworthy. There are enemies in the mirror - I'm fat, I'm too thin, I'm ugly. There are enemies which steal our time, our capabilities, enemies which freeze us, which cause us to doubt, stealing our peace, our ability to move forward. Enemies we don't think we can overcome, enemies which stifle us.

There is an ancient Jewish story where King Solomon, wanting to humble his wisest servant, asked him to find a magic ring which would make a sad person happy and a happy person sad. When the servant couldn't find such a ring, King Solomon had one made bearing the phrase, "this too shall pass."

"This," our riches, our worries, our joys, our fears. Workloads, accomplishments. The snow, the scorching heat. The rain, the drought. The war, the peace. To each – it will pass. Only God, His love and mercy, His goodness and grace, are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Paul told the Corinthians, who were in turmoil, "So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without His unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times; the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now - will last forever. (2 Cor 4:17-18).

Words to live by. We do not know what tomorrow holds, how long we'll live, what the economy will do, where the next terrorist attack or mass murder will be. Most of us don't even consider that question in our day. But there will be trials and triumphs ahead. We could win the publisher's clearing house prize or get a bad diagnosis. It's life.

Like the weather, if you don't like it - stick around for a few minutes. The events in life – beautiful or ugly, good or bad, invited or unwanted – come and go. Like the ocean, they rush in and flow out. The Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius wrote, "It would take an idiot to feel distress or arrogance or anger." He knew fate could turn on a dime. No matter how important a person is, they can't control everything.

As the Mamas and Papas sang, "Monday, Monday, can't trust that day." We were not created to trust the day, but God. We do not know what the day will hold, but we know who holds the day; we can hope, we can have faith, because "Our times are in God's hand; He will rescue us from the hands of our enemies, and from those who persecute us." In this, we can trust.

## **Please pray with me.**

Lord of all, we place our times, the fast and slow, the good and bad, the fair and unfair, in Your hands, where we find grace and mercy to face the times, and the strength to journey through. them. We trust You with what we cannot see, holding on to Your unfailing love and goodness to face tomorrow.

**Amen.**