

*August 27, 2017*

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**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“Suffering is actually at the heart of the Christian story.”

~Tim Keller, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*

“It is said of God that no one can behold his face and live. I always thought this meant that no one could see his splendor and live. A friend said perhaps it meant that no one could see his sorrow and live. Or perhaps his sorrow is splendor.... Instead of explaining our suffering God shares it.”

~Nicholas Wolterstorff, *Lament for a Son*

“So give me hope in the darkness that I will see the light

‘Cause oh, it gave me such a fright  
But I will hold on with all of my might  
Just promise me we’ll be all right.”

~Mumford & Sons, “Ghosts That We Knew”

“What do people mean when they say, ‘I am not afraid of God because I know He is good’? Have they never even been to a dentist?”

~C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

“I have never experienced stomach doubt, but I think Jesus did. When he cried out, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!’ I don’t think he was raising a theological issue...I think he had looked into the abyss itself and found there a darkness that spiritually, viscerally, totally engulfed him. I think God allows that kind of darkness to happen only to God’s saints.”

~Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

~Jesus

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “The Silence of God” – *Drew Matter*

**SERMON PASSAGE** – *Psalm 77 (NIV)*

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| <p><sup>1</sup> I cried out to God for help;<br/>I cried out to God to hear me.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;<br/>at night I stretched out untiring hands,<br/>and I would not be comforted.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> I remembered you, God, and I groaned;<br/>I meditated, and my spirit grew faint.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> You kept my eyes from closing;<br/>I was too troubled to speak.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> I thought about the former days,<br/>the years of long ago;</p> <p><sup>6</sup> I remembered my songs in the night.<br/>My heart meditated and my spirit asked:</p> <p><sup>7</sup> “Will the Lord reject forever?<br/>Will he never show his favor again?</p> <p><sup>8</sup> Has his unfailing love vanished forever?<br/>Has his promise failed for all time?</p> <p><sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be merciful?<br/>Has he in anger withheld his compassion?”</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Then I thought, “To this I will appeal:<br/>the years when the Most High stretched out<br/>his right hand.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes,<br/>I will remember your miracles of long ago.</p> | <p><sup>12</sup> I will consider all your works<br/>and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”</p> <p><sup>13</sup> Your ways, God, are holy.<br/>What god is as great as our God?</p> <p><sup>14</sup> You are the God who performs miracles;<br/>you display your power among the peoples.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> With your mighty arm you redeemed your<br/>people,<br/>the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.</p> <p><sup>16</sup> The waters saw you, God,<br/>the waters saw you and writhed;<br/>the very depths were convulsed.</p> <p><sup>17</sup> The clouds poured down water,<br/>the heavens resounded with thunder;<br/>your arrows flashed back and forth.</p> <p><sup>18</sup> Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,<br/>your lightning lit up the world;<br/>the earth trembled and quaked.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> Your path led through the sea,<br/>your way through the mighty waters,<br/>though your footprints were not seen.</p> <p><sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock<br/>by the hand of Moses and Aaron.</p> |
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