

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How I am looking forward to saying, "The Lord be with you," and hearing your response, "And also with you." Perhaps you have noticed that when I say these words, I extend my hands and arms on each side, as a way of non-verbally communicating this greeting to all of you. Then, when you reply, I bring my arms toward my body, and hold my hands to my heart. This is a way of expressing that I carry your response, your greeting, to my heart!

It is with heartfelt joy that I look forward to being with many of you today. At the same time, I realize that some of you will not be with us in person. As such, we pray for those of you who are unable to attend and hope that you will be able to join us again in the near future!

Our sermon for today is taken from the Old Testament. It speaks of God's provision of snow and rain (or water), and makes a comparison to God's word. Years ago, a friend told me that during the winter, her mother would go outside on a snowy day, make some snowballs, and put them in their freezer. Then, on a hot summer's day, she would go to the freezer and surprise my friend and her siblings with the snowballs! They might have a snowball fight, or play a game of catch using the snowballs in place of a baseball. The snowballs were welcome fun, and a reprieve from the hot weather. For many of us right now, the thought of a nice snowfall, or putting a snowball to our skin for its cooling effect might sound pretty good. When we think about the snowball as an example of God's provision for us, it sounds even better!

As we go forth today, may we be reminded of God's provisions for us in our daily lives. God fills the earth with bountiful goodness that is beyond measure. May we all be strengthened this day, and every day, by God's unlimited provision for our well-being and the well-being of all creation.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy