

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Friday morning, I was reminded by my sister-in-law of a special memory that she holds. At my brother and sister-in-law's wedding, I, my mother, and my sister-in-law's mother sang "O Lord Most Holy." Although we had sung together in the church choir for many years, it was a unique opportunity for the three of us to sing as a trio. I am an alto, my mother was an alto, and my sister-in-law's mother was a soprano. Together, we created a special memory for my sister-in-law and perhaps others.

The hymn came to my sister-in-law's mind yesterday, because her mother was quite ill. (Her mother passed away on Saturday morning.) Like many of us, during challenging times, we recall special memories of music that has stirred our souls, enriched us, and helped us through our times of struggle.

There are several songs like this for me. One that I remember singing in church choir years ago, "My Song in the Night," has stayed with me all these years. I have referred to it on occasion when I have led funeral services. It reminds me that the one, Triune God is with us all the time, day and night. In our moments of happiness, sadness, and everything in between, God is with us.

My Song in the Night (American Folk Hymn--arranger, Paul Christiansen)

O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night, Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight. Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call, My comfort by day and my song in the night.

O why should I wander and alien from Thee. Or cry in the desert Thy face to see. My comfort and joy, my soul's delight. O Jesus, my Savior, my song in the night...

Perhaps you too have a special hymn or religious song that comes to your mind; one that helps sustain you during challenging times.

During these days of the Coronavirus Pandemic, we may find comfort by remembering the ways in which we connect with God. Through prayer, through scripture reading, and through song, we are united with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All of these spiritual practices draw us closer to God, and remind us that we are never alone. God is with us in every time and place. God does not leave us or forsake us. Thanks be to God for God's amazing love.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Cathy