

A Short Reflection on World Day of Prayer March 25, 2014

It's morning and the hour has arrived for my CLC community to pray with the World CLC for Peace and Love. Due to circumstance, we will pray individually wherever we happen to be. I am sitting by the window looking out onto the park and the snow is rapidly melting. The geese are back in town and the cars are driving by splashing the slush everywhere. Yet the sun is promising an appearance. Winter is coming to an end.



How I wish there could be another end, an end to the anger and aggression that underscore civil war in Syria and Crimea, or in any part of the world. I ask myself, why do I even listen to the radio news and really, how can my prayer even begin to help so far away? It is so difficult to relate.

I recall the program created by the Interchurch Council of Women for their Day of Prayer earlier in March. I had brought their text home with me to use today to guide my prayer. It had been prepared by the women of Egypt for this day. Those amazing women have a history too. Years of oppression followed by tentative emancipation for not just women but also ordinary people who were living Christian lives in a Moslem world. Slowly, changes had occurred over time, God's time, not our time. I find it consoling to remember that. They had chosen passages from Isaiah to speak to us.

These words of Isaiah rooted me then and again today;

*"I hold you in the palm of My hand." (Isaiah 41:13)*

*"I will never forget you." (Isaiah 49:14-16)*

Though these words were written before the birth of Christ, they still invigorate me today! Intuitively, I have always sensed this comforting promise, even as a child.

Isaiah, you have again distracted me from what I can not do and given me a focus for what I can do. I am grateful for your lesson and the blessing of a nudge from God. I can listen for God's call to serve those in need, to teach them how to care for themselves, to encourage them to take ownership for their lives and to facilitate a sense that they too, are in the palm of God's hand.