

## Thursday - March 20

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29: 11-13 NIV*

My prayer life, over the years, has been a journey full of ups and downs like waves on the ocean. For so many years, the experience of prayer seemed just out of reach. To me there didn't seem to be anyone on the other end. The problem wasn't on God's end, it was on mine.

The first is the full realization of this precious gift God gave us at the cross. When Jesus was hanging on the cross, He took all human sin upon Himself and paid the ransom in our place for all time. In this earth-shaking act, the veil between heaven and earth was torn. His resurrection after three days showed us that not even death could separate us from God. This costly gift is offered to us freely. We now can pray to God directly.

Then, there is the learning about "thin places" where you personally feel and experience the presence of God. One place for me is my living room chair when I watch Canadian geese waddle down the road to a grassy area. Each person's thin places are different. Realizing what thin places are and where they are for me has been transforming for my prayer life.

Finally, I had to understand that prayer is a lifetime journey of discovering how to pray. It takes time to develop a life of prayer in which you find that sacred space within yourself and bare your soul. Once you enter that holy place, nothing is hidden. You realize God is already there waiting for you. This Lenten season God is calling to you... "Come and find me"!

Nancy Heaver

**Prayer:** God, thank you for those in our congregation who help us in our prayer journey. Help us to discover those thin sacred places where we can feel and experience your love, forgiveness, and your purpose for our lives. Amen.