

# OUT OF THE DEEP

## TODAY'S READING

<sup>1</sup>I cry out to you from the depths, LORD—

<sup>2</sup>my Lord, listen to my voice!

Let your ears pay close attention to my request for mercy!

<sup>3</sup>If you kept track of sins, LORD—

my Lord, who would stand a chance?

<sup>4</sup>But forgiveness is with you—

that's why you are honored.

<sup>5</sup>I hope, LORD.

My whole being hopes,

and I wait for God's promise.

<sup>6</sup>My whole being waits for my Lord—

more than the night watch waits for morning;

yes, more than the night watch waits for morning!

<sup>7</sup>Israel, wait for the LORD!

Because faithful love is with the LORD;

because great redemption is with our God!

<sup>8</sup>He is the one who will redeem Israel

from all its sin. (**Psalm 130**)

## REFLECTION

Psalm 130 is one of the seven Penitential Psalms, emphasizing repentance and forgiveness of sins. The other psalms are 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, and 143. Psalm 130 is also one of the Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134) probably sung by pilgrims on their way up to the temple on Mount Zion for feast celebrations. This psalm also appears in our United Methodist Hymnal, #848.

Perhaps one of the more well-known musical incorporations of Psalm 130 can be found in John Rutter's "Requiem." Several years ago as a member of the choir in another church, we sang the "Requiem," and it was a highlight of my (brief) choir career. Now, I am not well-versed in musicality, but I enjoyed the choir fellowship and comradery and the opportunity to sing music I never even knew existed! In the "Requiem," Psalm 130 is the inspiration for the second movement, "Out of the Deep." The music is dark and somber. Some have termed the music, "Anglican jazz," for its moodiness and off-beat tempo. The lyrics are the words of Psalm 130 conveying despair, but with perhaps the slightest bit of trust and hope in the Lord for relief from suffering. Rutter reminds us that there is hope for redemption that we will emerge from "Out of the Deep," because of God's endless mercy and divine companionship that will remake all that is broken.

## TODAY'S PRAYER

Dear God, out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice. Amen.

(Submitted by Cindy Banek)