



| Monday, December 16

Unfailing Love and Mercy

Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.

Lamentations 3:22-24

Today, as I do each Advent, I set out my Advent wreath, a gift to myself from the Arts & Crafts Fair. The purchase came at time when money was tight, my spiritual walk feeling unenthusiastic. Initially, I had walked away from this purchase. Yet, I was compelled to return, to purchase, and even splurge on taking the wreath to a friend who wound greens and berries around the wreath and the candles.

I no longer have someone else prepare my Advent wreath. As I place each candle in the wreath, I contemplate what each means for the Advent journey: hope, peace, joy, love. Each of these lead to the Christ-child, the Savior of the world. Each day in Advent, I ponder and pray for these gifts to abound within me and those dear to my heart and those I struggle to love.

I fail in my efforts to fully extend the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. And I am reminded that the Christ-child is my own Savior. God's grace and mercy, His compassion and faithfulness are mine. He does not fail. I experience being made new again and again.

Twenty-five years ago, I lit the first Advent candle on my new wreath. I believe God was present in that purchase, preparing and guiding me as His new creation. I trust in His great love and presence which will be present in and through me each new day ahead.

Heavenly Father, you have gifted us with your Son.

We are rich in hope, peace, joy, and love.

Give us confidence in your compassionate love.

Help us to be generous in sharing your gifts with others.

Amen.

- Mary Pfohl