

Karen to the Church at Dayspring – Grace to you and peace. I give thanks to God for you, and hold you in my daily prayer, believing that you are a community called to live out the Church of the Saviour way of being Church. My sisters and brothers, beloved of God, your story, from being founded 50+ years ago as a retreat center for the early followers of the C of S way, to today's community of 12 core members, 4 mission groups, dozens who share in worship and ministry, and the community of all life on the 208+ acres, your story overflows with the power of the Risen Christ and is an inspiration to many. My coming to you twenty-four years ago was a response to God's call to help generate or participate in authentic Christian community. I constantly give God thanks for leading me here for it has blessed my life with meaning through worship, relationships, retreats, classes, ministry, struggles, mission, and more. You have shared with me joys and sufferings – personal and communal – and you have known mine. We have experienced celebration given our grace-filled stories, the need for mercy given our several failures, comfort in the face of our losses, praise and thanksgiving for gifts of faith and proclamation, reverence in beholding the beauty of God's presence in all of it.

I ask the Lord Jesus to strengthen you in how to live faithfully in order that life on earth may be more like it is in God's heavenly realm. As you live into these times of fearsome violence and wickedness, of things falling apart, may trust in the ways of God made known in Jesus Christ be your deepest intention; and hope rooted in the ultimacy of love be your constant assurance. For you are a people of the Light, of the Dayspring from on high, called to be at peace amongst yourselves; remembering to admonish kindly the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with all. God is - as God always has been and always will be - God is working God's purposes out and your part is to hold fast to the disciplines of the inward journey, to the servanthood ministries of the outward journey, to the communal commitments made and renewed each October, and above all to the Way of Life made known by Jesus Christ.

His grace be with us all.