

Fifth Sunday of Lent

“I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

Psalm 16:7-8

Art and I had shared boating experiences with our families in the 1960’s. In the 1980’s, we found ourselves comforting each other in the loss of our spouses.

Our new relationship as friends developed into love and marriage. Our marriage in the later years of our lives has been a learning experience for us. Our faith in God and trust in His grace and mercy every day has created the most loving relationship I have ever experienced. You see, Art’s injury in the Army left him wheelchair bound from the age of 19. He said soon after he was injured that he would concentrate not on what he **could not do**, but what **he could do**. That’s the answer to our love, our marriage and all areas of life. I have always thought in my heart of Art as my knight in shining armor. He did not come on a white horse, but a bright shining wheel chair—a blessing to us both.

After we were married, we wanted to make our new home in a warm climate in a community with a church where we could both worship and serve our Lord. God’s hand in our lives continued as he directed us to Palm Beach Gardens and to First Pres. We are so blessed to have our church family to love and to love us, as well as to have the pastors, teachers and Bible studies available to us at First Pres.

Once settled, we began the challenge of traveling. After several short trips to visit family, we ventured to California to visit Art’s daughter’s family. During one of our trips out west, we traveled off the beaten track up a high mountain and were overwhelmed with God’s creation of beauty. We began to hum and sing “How Great Thou Art,” and we both had tears running down our cheeks. We felt God’s presence throughout our travels. And God always provided the special accommodations we needed, even though we did not make advance reservations.

Dear Lord, our God, We give You thanks for giving us the gift of complete happiness in the winter of our years. May we have strength for our days to help all those we can, whenever we can, according to Your will. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Barbara Nickler

