

## April 24, 2020 ~Praying

God of Peace, in the midst of every storm in our lives, you remain close by, ready to lift us up and carry our burdens. In our weakest moments and darkest days, you wait for us to come to you for comfort and assurance. All we need do is open our hearts and our minds in prayer. You hear the worries, the fears, the confusions, and the cries for help each of us pray. Just saying the words to you blankets us in that peace we can't explain but feel to the depths of our souls. You are our Living God of Peace.

Father God, we are your children; loved and forgiven in spite of our weaknesses. We wander away, and too often rely on our puffed up self esteems instead of the Holy Spirit in us. The world tempts us with false promises. We take the bait and are hooked in the wink of an eye. Satan delights in our gullibility, and we let him have his way with our choices. From days of our childhood, the evil one has been planting negative thoughts in our minds like land mines in a battlefield. He's used all kinds of people to reinforce his deceptions, and like Eve listened to the serpent, we've listened to the world, tolerated sin, defied your authority, and even embraced the trickery and lies to be part of an adoring crowd of hopeful people who are hopelessly lost in darkness. And still Patient God, you've protected us in ways we never noticed, and waited for the storms to knock us off our self righteous pedestals. Thank you, Merciful God, for your promises. You will never leave us or forsake us. You will always be close by and ready to pick us up and shelter us from the world and our wrong thinking, You raise us up from the depths of our despair and place our broken hearts and broken spirits on your mountains. What an amazing God you are!

In January of 2014, our Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Alpharetta, Georgia hosted a delightful group of Korean college students, all talented members of The Korean Students Glee Club. They stayed in our homes and participated in concerts not only at local Korean churches, but also at in our sanctuary. Beautiful bonds of friendship were sealed with Christian love. Today, one of our "Korean sons" shared a beautiful message of hope and affirmation help us know something about you, Heavenly Father. No matter where the personal and national storms of this pandemic have left our hopes and no matter how burdened our hearts may feel, when we go to that quiet place and wait in stillness and silence, you God, our faithful and steadfast Lord, will be waiting to lift up our thoughts, our hopes, our joy, and our broken spirits. We are so grateful for who you are and how much you love us in spite of who we are. You restore us so we can become more like you want us to be.

Wondrous God, When you brought those Korean students to bless our church family, we learned so much and made new friends with your children so far from Georgia. When Dong Cheol Kim sent this beautiful gift of hope from the Suwon City Choral today, it was one of those circumstances that could not have been a coincidence. Like so many in our church family, we need you, God of Hope, to lift us up.

In the name of Jesus, the Lord and Savior of all weary hearted believers around this world now feeling down in the depths of weariness, we give you thanks and praise because "When you come and I am filled wonder, sometime I think I glimpse eternity." Amen.

Please enjoy "Your Raise Me Up" performed beautifully by the Suwhon City Chorale in this video that arrived right on time from a friend of the Lord of Life family. God of Peace, your timing is always perfect.

<https://youtu.be/D9sDDb4vEIY>