April 6, 2021

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Psalm 100:1,2.

My husband and I lived for fifteen years in a house that sat at the base of Huntsville Mountain. Just to the west of our driveway, the mountain rose in 40 vertical acres of tree-covered land. We loved the solitude and peace of the place but, shortly after moving in, made a disconcerting discovery.

The house was dark! None of the windows faced east to capture the morning sun, and even on the brightest days, the mountain loomed, effectively blocking the light from 3:00 in the afternoon on. One spring brought in six weeks of unprecedented weather where it rained for six weeks, and the darkness became too much for us. We hired a crew and had skylights installed in the house.

The result was immediate and transformative. I will never forget the moment the hole was cut in the room and abundant light streamed from the sky into my living room. Everything inside of me lifted and I danced around like a little child.

All I needed was a path of light between the sun and myself. The same is true in our spiritual experience. We need the direct light of the Son. In the same way that the mountain plunged my home into darkness, negative attitudes and focusing on what is "wrong" can extinguish the light in my heart. If I harbor negative attitudes, I create a seed of dissatisfaction in my heart that will grow to block out the light of the Son.   The joy for what I have, and what He has provided, is lost under the focus of what's missing and what's wrong.

Open your windows to heaven! Start praising God for all he has done for you. He will help you find the pieces that you can be grateful for, even in the middle of heartache and sorrow.   In His presence – His light – is found eternal joy and salvation.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13, 14.

This devotional was written by Ramona Thompson