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### Reflection/Meditation in response to Psalm 148

We find the Psalmist reminding us to praise the Lord to say, Amen, to say Hallelujah! It's an important message for us to remember on this important day. We need to Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

Now I know the enemy would like for us to become fixated on complaining. The enemy wants us to look at every cup half empty rather than half full. And, trust me, I am not relating to you in a Polly Anna kind of way. I am not naïve to the serious challenges that you and I have encountered and face daily. I'm aware that COVID 19 pandemic has taken and impacted lives in very serious ways. And, God's blessings upon our country's and the world and that's dealing with the tragic realities of that disease. But I am so glad that God's love and God's presence in God's comfort cannot be stopped by COVID-19 pandemic. For the Psalmist reminds us that even amid pandemic that God's love, care and grace it's still with us.

Now, I know that the enemy would like us to complain about the political instability and the polarization that is taking place across our country and across the globe but the Psalmist reminds us that God's love, that God's power, it endures past beyond political term limits. God's love and God's justice, it reigns over any political perceived dynasties. The Psalmist reminds us to praise the Lord. During this season, may this Christmas season become a new season in all our lives. And, I know that we praise a lot of things for the Webster's Dictionary informs us that praise can be described and defined as 1) giving honor 2) giving a compliment. And, when as people of faith we give honor and compliments to a lot of different things. For we at home at the UMC in Los Angeles, CA, we have given some praise, compliments and honor to our Los Angeles Lakers for winning the basketball championship because we are proud of that team. We've given some praise and honor to the Dodgers for winning the World Series. And, we joined millions of other people from around the country and globe lifting those teams.

But, my brothers and sisters, wherever you are don't forget about giving praise and honor to our God. Wherever you are don't forget about lifting the name of our God especially, in the form of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For our Lord deserves the honor, our Lord deserves the praise. Just think about where you were 20 years ago. Wasn't God good? Think about where you were 10 years ago? Wasn't God good? Others of us can think of where we were not a decade ago but 1 year ago. Some of you are thanking God for what he did for you not 1 year ago but 1 month ago or a week ago.

The singer and song writer once wrote the melody, "What a difference a day makes". What a difference our God makes in our lives. What a difference our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ makes in our circumstances, in our situations. There is a new day, a new theme, and a new season. I pray God's blessings upon new beginnings in your lives. And, let our beginnings start and end with praising God. God's blessings upon your life, God's blessings upon your journey and wherever you are during this Christmas season, may it include praising God. Hallelujah God! Thank you for what you've done, are doing and what you will do in our lives and in the world. So, God's blessings upon you.

May God's angels always surround you and may we always remember Psalm 148... "Praise the Lord", Amen