

Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

The Rev. Dr. LindaJo McKim '77, Honorably Retired, but continues to serve as a writer of adult curriculum. Distinguished Alum '94

**Scripture:**

Psalm 24:1-2; 7-10

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,  
the world and those who live in it;
- 2 For he has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.
  
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is the King of Glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.
- 10 Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

**Devotional:**

In Handel's Messiah "Lift up your Heads, O ye gates" is based on Psalm 24. The chorus is reminiscent of an ancient antiphon where a question is posed by a voice standing outside the temple door and answered by a voice inside. Voices command the temple gates to open so the King of Glory may come in. Those inside ask, "Who is this King of glory?" The response by the outsiders is "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle."

The ancients believed God was in a constant battle against forces that would throw the creation into utter chaos. They believed God had heavenly armies aiding favored nations during war. We may not be comfortable picturing God as head of an army. But today God is at war with physical and spiritual enemies that rob life of all it was meant to be. This advent season we prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus Christ the King of Glory to enter.

**Prayer:**

Creator God, Renew my spirit as I open the gates of my heart to receive the coming Christ.  
Amen.