

Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Rev. Dr. W. Fred Graham '55, Retired Professor. Distinguished Alum '06

**Scripture:**

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
- 2 Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!
- 3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.
- 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;
- 6 my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.
- 8 It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

**Devotional:**

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: I remember being called in from play on a dismal winter Sunday afternoon. Japanese planes had attacked our naval yards at Pearl Harbor and air facilities nearby wreaking incredible damage and killing many on the ground and on our ships. We listened as President Roosevelt pronounced this “a day that would live in infamy.” We cannot know what events had plunged the psalmist into the depths where he despaired of life and begged God’s ear to hear his lament. (Or she: Huldah the prophetess must have felt unappreciated much of the time, and perhaps the psalm is her lament?) Many a believer has felt abandoned, lost in personal failure or beaten down by exterior forces. R.A. Dickey, knuckleball hurler, was devastated by his failure to stay in the major leagues; and even more by his personal failures as husband and father. Although a Christian, unexplored childhood abuse surfaced in harsh and unfaithful behavior. His wife Anne, an insistent and persistent believer, struggled with him and showed that “there is forgiveness with God.” Freed from the demons of his past Dickey

put 16 years in the minor leagues behind him and fellow players voted him the most valuable pitcher in the National League this year.

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord, let your ears be attentive to my prayers as well. I try to do your will and (as one of your saints said) believe that you honor my attempt even if my discernment of your will is in error. Guide me today; may I see my Lord in every human face. Amen.