

Westview Chimes August 2020



God does not just smile upon you, but God's face is beaming upon you!

Aaron's blessing of Numbers 6:24-26

- ²⁴ "The LORD bless you
and keep you;
²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace."

Children are precious. They can bring such joy to our faces and we often catch ourselves beaming at them with a big grin--or in other words, our face shines upon them. As Aaron's blessing says, God smiles upon you—shines upon you. Most days we walk through our lives not realizing that the Lord's face is shining upon US. We often walk through life not realizing that God is not just smiling, but BEAMING with delight upon us, with a love that understands our deepest depths better than our best friend, and more committed than the longest married couple we know, with a faithfulness to our welfare, and commitment to our development into beautiful people. This agape, unconditional (there are no conditions on it!) love is deeper than the love even the most amazing parent or teacher. And the crazy thing is, this is how God feels about each and every human being on this earth! This is the heart of the Kingdom of God, or as many like to say the "Kindom" of God—we are all precious and beloved unconditionally! Lord, help us to receive this love, and in turn give this love to everyone--even the most difficult!

Let us lean into the embrace of the God who loves us this much...to die in our stead.

Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10)

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am all-powerful and I am all-loving.

Be still and know that you are my beloved and you are in my capable, loving hands.

Close your eyes and let us pray:

For the anxieties we feel right now, wondering what the outcome will be (pause to pray)

Be still, and know, that I am God. (sit in this truth)

For concerns about health for us or for loved ones (pause to pray)

Be still, and know, that I am God. (sit in this truth)

For financial fears (pause to pray)

Be still, and know, that I am God. (sit in this truth)

For uncertainty about the future (pause)

Be still, and know, that I am God. (sit in this truth)

For the guilt we feel for the things we wish we had NOT done in the name of selfishness or unkindness, or the things we wish we HAD done in the name of love. (pause)

Be still, and know, that I am God. (sit in this truth)

God, thank you for loving us this much—for loving us unconditionally! Let us worship the Great I AM who smiles upon us as his beloved and says with reassurance, "Be Still and know that I am God!"

In these strange times, God bless you and may the love of God enfold you!

-Pastor Dan
