

Patterns of Grace and Gratitude Week 5

Saturday, May 22



Photo Credit: Patti Amy "Lake Erie sunset"



Photo Credit: Lori Brooks "Great Blue Heron"

*Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul. I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing. Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God. He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them— he remains faithful forever. He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free, the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked. The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD. **Psalm 146***

This whole series called "Patterns of Grace and Gratitude" is coming to an end. I pray that you have found patterns in your own life that have been encouraging and uplifting. And maybe some that need to be pondered to determine if they are the right patterns for you. In these beautiful pictures today, I see many patterns, literally and figuratively. I hope that some are evident to you also.

First the patterns...secondly, I wanted to ponder the grace of God and how it manifests itself in our life of faith, and in our daily existence. How has God's grace changed you? And how is God's grace lived out through you?

Finally, gratitude. I am so grateful for strands of thought and wonderful sermons and conversations that I am privileged to hear every week in worship, small groups and casual conversations. They all show up in these devotions that you read. So you are all a part of these. And I am also thankful to those of you who allowed me to use your photography. It made all the difference in the world. Thank you.

We are only able to be grateful when we are humble enough to realize we are not in charge of everything. God is. We live in this beautiful world, full of wonderful opportunities and many loving, gracious people who show up in our lives. I pray that we can take a moment... a breath, to realize that every day. And give thanks. As the psalmist says, "I will praise the Lord all my life..." May it be so.

Gratefully, Kim La Rue, writer and editor of "Patterns of Grace and Gratitude", 2021.