

Wednesday - March 30

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:20 (NRSV)

My whole life, I've always felt closest to God when I'm near water. I'm sure this began because my family spent a week every summer at the beach when I was growing up. I remember being filled with awe watching the water. Sometimes the water was as still as glass and sometimes roaring with crashing waves, sometimes so clear I could see shells and fish, sometimes so churned up you couldn't see anything.

As I grew up and began attending retreats with my church youth group, the camps we went to always had a lake. We'd have time throughout the weekend to go off on our own to journal and talk to God, and I always chose to go near the water.

Now, as an adult, I still find myself gravitating to water. My new favorite place to sit and spend time with God is the dock at our lake house. It is so quiet and beautiful, very peaceful. I spend my time watching the trees and the birds, listening to the water lapping against the dock, and feeling the calm that all this brings me. Being near the water always makes me feel God's presence.

I feel so fortunate to have grown up in a Christian household where I've always known about God. Because of this, I've always been able to talk to God and tell him my wants, needs and dreams, but I have to admit that I haven't always been very good at listening. Since spending time on the dock, I've begun to practice listening for God. Consciously making myself stop thinking about me and putting effort into quieting my brain and listening. This has definitely been much harder than it should be, but I'm getting better at it. And I feel my relationship with God strengthening. I am truly thankful for this special place that makes me feel so close to God.

Debbie

Prayer: Dear Lord, You have given us so many beautiful places, visual reminders of You and all the blessings You bestow on us. As we see this beauty, may we remember that You are always with us. Amen.