

## Thursday - March 23

*"For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."*

*Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)*

In the summer of 2021 at the 9:30 service, in the fourth pew on the South side of the PUMC sanctuary, a mother and daughter were seated. I was solo in the pew right behind. I noticed how close they were sitting together and how peaceful they looked as well as having what I thought was a typical familial interaction during a Sunday service. Until it wasn't. As I watched these two, clearly linked people in front of me, I became mesmerized with their intimate connection. The sweet glances, soft smiles, gentle touches, tender kisses on top the daughter's head were all so loving that I found myself unable to look at or think of anything else. I was just engrossed in the moment with the love between them. It was so strong that it was truly palpable, radiating outward like warm sunrays. It was an incredibly beautiful thing.

I barely noticed the service was ending or that tears were falling down my cheeks. And I didn't realize this little girl's terminal illness was advancing. All I knew was that this was a special moment indeed.

Upon reflection, it was God who was the flowing love between mother and child. This love was fierce, joy filled, and all-encompassing in the very best of ways. It was and is a powerful reminder of who God is and that God is everywhere. It was especially evident to me during that one 9:30 service in the summer of 2021, in the fourth pew on the South side of the PUMC sanctuary.

Kathy

**Prayer:** Dear God, Thank you for creating the world and for dwelling among us. Thank you for sending Your Son to help show us how to love fiercely, joyfully, and completely; thank you for people who reflect that love. Help us continue to intentionally seek You and then share Your love with our world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.