

## Psalm 130:1-8 – Crying out, waiting

Written by Emily Graber, GC sophomore

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

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When we were kids, one of the best parts of Christmas was the week or so before, when a few presents were put under the tree. I would always get excited, wonder what I was going to get, and hope that the rest of the family liked my gifts to them. Opening the presents was fun, of course, but the wondering, the questioning, the waiting made the ‘season of giving’ more ‘magical’ than the event of opening presents itself.

Sometimes life is like the week before Christmas. We all have ups and downs in life. When we go through trials and struggles, we wonder why these things happen. When we don’t see any end in sight, when we are in the dark night of the soul, when life is being its meanest, we cry out to God.

We cry variations of Psalm 130. Sometimes we can only moan the first two verses. We recognize that we cannot do this ‘life thing’ alone. We realize again, in our brokenness, that we need God to put us back together, to make sense and meaning in a seemingly senseless and meaningless situation.

Eventually, maybe one day, we begin to depend on God. And so we wait for it all to end, we begin to have hope. We wonder, “What will I ‘unwrap’ at the end of this trial? What gift will I receive? Hope, faith, a deeper understanding of love, a better way to connect with others?” The gift at the end of a trial is not always obvious, and maybe we won’t see it for a while. But there is a hope. When we cry out to God, when we wait on God, God will be there, by our side, walking beside us, helping us with each painful, struggling step we take.