

## I Am With You

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*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine. Do not fear, for I am with you." - Isaiah 43:1b and 5a.*

A friend of mine said the other day, "Of all the stupid things I have done in my life, I've survived only to learn that touching my face can cause me harm." It's a sobering thought, isn't it? As I think of all the crazy things that I've done and survived, it causes me to ponder "What was I thinking?" Aside from all the wacky youthful behaviors, I think the thing I found the most terrifying was riding Space Mountain at Disney World in Orlando.

Space Mountain is an extreme roller coaster ride that travels a path in the dark. It makes a journey of sudden, jerky turns and rapid descents. In the distance, the rider can see twinkles of light that appear to be starlight, but there is not enough light to see what is coming. So when the sudden turns and drops come, the rider is unaware of what they are about to experience. I know it was just an amusement park ride, but it really did feel like I was going to be flung off the earth into outer space. Perhaps I was so terrified because I was alone. My buddy couldn't go on the ride with me due to a heart ailment, and I was determined to ride after we stood in line for all that time in the hot Florida sun. I couldn't let all that time go to naught.

When I think back, I think the most fearful times in my life have occurred when I was alone and in the dark. Perhaps those frightening feelings occurred because I thought I was by myself. We are not alone, yet sometimes we forget God's great promise to us: Do not fear, for I am with you. Life is so much easier when we have someone to share our fears, our heartaches, and our troubles.

David Haas is a wonderful Christian songwriter, singer and musician. He wrote a worship song, "You Are Mine", which marries God's faithful promise from Isaiah with the miraculous Gospel stories of Christ, the Light of the World. One of the verses and chorus have been stuck in my heart these last few days:

*I am strength for all the despairing  
Healing for the ones who dwell in shame  
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free  
And all will know My name*

*Do not be afraid, I am with you  
I have called you each by name  
Come and follow Me  
I will bring you home  
I love you and you are mine*

For many of us, this Lenten Journey has felt like a roller coaster ride in the dark. We are not alone, nor are we in the dark. We've been chosen to walk with the Light of the World. Christ has called us by name and we are His.

*Prayer: Calling God, speak to us when we are afraid and cast away our fears with your light.*

*Peace & Prayers,*

*Rev. Dell King*  
Interim Associate Pastor

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