***Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.***

Fear not, for I am with you. Fear not – for I am with you! Sometimes God has to repeat Himself to me because I am not a giant in my Faith and fear comes creeping like a gnawing kitten on a dark of night, chewing at the edges of what I know is true of my God. Fear not! For He is God, and He is with you! How sweet the knowledge.

I’m sure that no one here today has any fear, no anxiety, is giving no thought to something that is out in the future, that may happen, could happen, might happen… so, I alone will plead guilty. I alone will plead guilty to having to ask for strength every morning, seeking courage every morning, needing to be refilled with God’s presence – having to be refilled like a leaking balloon, so I don’t shrink under the pressures of this world. Fear not!

Our verse starts - *Fear not, for I am with you;* Dread not! Worry not! Anxiety not! Fear not – why? Because the God of the Universe, the very One that knit us together in our mother’s womb, the very One that knows the ending from the beginning, the very One that has known us before the world was made, before light was called forth from the darkness, before the day was separated from the night, is with us. The I Am is with us – you, me. By His rod, He will protect us, and, on His staff, we will lean in confidence. We are never, never, never alone.

*Be not dismayed, for I am your God.* Be not shocked! Be not amazed! Be not dim and ignorant of this fact – what fact? The fact that God is with us. He is with you, with me because He is our God and we are His children, He is the Shepherd and we are His sheep, I am resting in the palm of His hand, nothing can snatch me from Him. Be not dismayed that God is protecting, shielding, hedging, and loving you.

The verse continues - *I will strengthen you.* God will strengthen us. Strengthen doesn’t just have the idea of spiritually strengthen. It carries the idea of mentally strengthening with courage and a steadfast Faith. It carries the idea of physically strengthening the body to make us able to endure. God promises to reinforce where we are weak – Isaiah 40:31 *But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength;They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.* Those who bind themselves together with the Lord shall find their strength renewed in Him.

*Yes, I will help you –* God says - Yes, I will surround you in your hour of need. Psalm 34:7 says *The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.* He envelopes us completely. We can rest in certainty that He knows all and controls all. I’m glad I serve a God that knows what I don’t, controls what I can’t, sees what I am blind to. I need only have Faith in what I cannot see, believe possible what I cannot comprehend. Angels are guarding me, encamped all around me while I take a rest. What a God we serve, what a God we serve.

*I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* I will maintain and sustain you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 48:13 says - *Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, They stand up together.* The righteous right hand that laid the foundations of the earth and stretched out the heavens above us is there to uphold and sustain. What do I have to fear? Psalm 138:7-8 *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me. 8 The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.*

Our God is a God of perfect healing. We have confidence in Him today. We pray for the outcome we want, but we know God is in complete control. Fear doesn’t help, so I will have Faith instead. I will pray in confidence as David did, I will look up - Psalm 5:3 *My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up.* And I will believe and refuse to be dismayed. God will bring healing this week. In that, I have all confidence. In that, I will praise Him today for what I believe He will accomplish tomorrow.