

Let's go back and remember when we learned our multiplication tables. The 2 times were easy; we learned that in first grade. The times 5 weren't too hard once we were shown that each answer would end in 0 or 5. But the 7 times and 8 times – it was much harder. Knowing our tables were important, so by flash cards or with an older sibling testing us, we memorized by repetition.

There are other things that are important like our Social Security number; directions to find the place for our new job or new doctor; the birthdays of all our grandchildren. We commit these things to memory, and we do it by repeating the numbers or the addresses or the dates.

In our scripture from Psalms, we hear repeated phrases. Two are

“Let everyone give thanks”

“May God bless us”

Many psalms are written this way, perhaps because these scriptures were originally oral, and repeating words and phrases helped keep them in memory.

Think for just a minute:

How did you learn the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm or the words to “The Spirit of God Like a Fire is Burning”?

What important items do you continue to repeat, today, so that they won't be forgotten?

Our prayers for peace are also important, and it is okay to repeat phrases and words because we do not want to forget to always include a petition for peace in our daily prayers. So please bow with me as I bring this evening's Prayer for Peace.

Abba, Creator, Sustainer,

We come to you humbly.

Our voices are lifted in praise and thanksgiving.

Listen as we beseech you, O God, to bring peace.

Peace for our inner self.

Peace in our homes.

Peace to our communities.

Bring peace to our communities; Bring peace in our homes.

Guide us to turn to you O God when we seek peace for our inner self.

Listen as we come to you in praise and thanksgiving.

We bow before you humbly, Abba, Creator, Sustainer,

Amen.