A Message from Pastor Miguel……

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling… Isaiah 30:15 (ESV) “I can’t just sit still; I have to be doing something!” Do you know any people like that? I feel like there was a time where I did a better job of kicking back and relaxing. These days, it just seems harder. Everywhere I look, there’s a task to do, an appointment to remember, an email to respond to, a mess to clean up. I can feel guilty sitting down and doing… nothing. Can you relate? Mentally, we have a hard time receiving the rest that God would grant us, too. Even when we do slow down, do we do so with any intentionality? Or do we give ourselves immediately to distraction? When we hear of news that would distress us, news of evil and tragedy in our world or of difficulty for someone we love, do we jump on the hamster wheel of anxiety and worry? Or are we able to rest as we entrust the situation or the loved one to God’s care in prayer? The context of our verse above from Isaiah 30 was a stressful moment in Judah’s history. The northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to the mighty Assyrian empire, and now the Assyrians had fixed their sights on Jerusalem. Time to worry? Time to panic? Time to scramble and make alliances with Egypt or other nations? God had a different solution. Return to Me. Rest. Quiet your soul. Trust in me. Judah would not do this perfectly. Many would fail. Thankfully, God would grant them at just the right time a faithful king, Hezekiah, who would take this message seriously and turn to God. And God would provide Judah miraculous rescue from the Assyrians around the year 700 BC. In these last weeks of summer, I pray that you will have some moments to rest, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If you don’t feel like you have those moments, I pray that God would grant you the courage to create them, to set aside the “urgent” to rest and find renewal in Him, in His Word. Is there something in your life agitating and troubling you? Don’t just do something – pray! And as you do, take comfort in these words from Isaiah 30:18: “For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.”

Christ’s peace and joy,

Pastor Miguel