

June 10 —Thought of the Week—Where everybody knows your name – Susan Shriver

Psalm 122:8 For the sake of my **family** and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”

Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name

Every morning when I first get up - I am an early riser - I turn on the news and deal with the morning chores. Week two into the lockdown, I was becoming very anxious from all of the stories and thought: let's change the channel. I found the 1980's sit com "Cheers" it has definitely cheered me up, especially with the refrain from the theme tune, but the most important thing is it has made me think about my human relationships in the time of lockdown. I am very lucky for having my family around me, but we need variety sometimes. Church is my second family, my small self selected community within the larger community and the world. I really miss my second family.

Hebrew 2:11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same **family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

And they are always glad you came

This second phrase of the theme song. Going to church makes me feel good. Often very joyful and happy, all the singing, praying and after the service talking to others. I feel the love around me. I have told others it is my reset button for the week, to be a better individual, citizen, ultimately follower of Christ and child of God. I know much of that is God's work but it is also the gathering together and worshipping with others. Our spirits joined. God has not left me in lock down. He has shown himself in different and amazing ways, but none are quite as consistent, for me, as in my Sunday worship.

1 Peter 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the **family** of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

You want to be where you can see,
Our troubles are all the same;
You want to be where everybody knows your name.

Lockdown has been an interesting experiment that will have a lasting impact on the world for years to come. We have been asked to dwell in the now. I am such a planner and this has required an exercise of restraint. I hope I have learned one thing that collectively we all feel the burden of being together-alone, not just our community and country, but the whole world. Has it made us less defensive or more protective? Will we come out better or worse? If we follow the teachings of Jesus I hope better, but of course, as always, it is up to you.