

**#15: Herra Kädelläsi Asua ma Saan:
God, Your Hands Enfold Me**

Listen to track 15 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

Scripture:

“Don’t panic. I’m with you. There’s no need to fear for I am your God. I’ll give you strength. I’ll help you. I’ll hold you steady -- keep a firm grip on you.”

Isaiah 41:18 (*The Message translation*)

Devotions:

Finnish is not a typical language heard outside of Finland, so it has many unfamiliar, yet intriguing, sounds to our ears. My grandmother, Ina, would speak Finnish to her sister, and I learned only how to say “Merry Christmas.” Every year I would proudly wish that greeting in Finnish and make both of us smile.

“God your hands enfold me/ Herra Kädelläsi” is haunting music for me. I can just listen over and over again. At International Deaconess Assembly (Diakonia) in 2009, our group led the congregation in this song, on what would have been my grandmother’s 91st birthday. The haunting melody and warm words melted me, but I kept my emotions in check. However, the next hymn, “It Is Well with My Soul,” opened me. I saw my mom tearing up. We sat together and embraced with silent tears.

It is hard to find peace when we feel deep painful emotions. In Finnish there is something called *sisu*. It is an inner strength to face the challenges in life and still find love and peace. My grandmother had *sisu*, and this showed in her love to everyone. I think there can be painful tears that feel good, that bring us inner strength – *sisu* – and that connect us to each other.

Our God brings the gifts of peace and love unconditionally to all. Words in any language may never be an adequate expression of peace. When words fail, sometimes listening to music is the best way for us to allow ourselves to be in God’s hands and r e s t.

Prayer:

God, your hands enfold me; help me to trust in You. You are always with me, God of rest and peace, God of rest and peace. Amen.

Reflection:

Is there a song or hymn that particularly touches you? One that takes you to a place of God’s rest and peace?

Listen to “God Your Hands Enfold Me/Herra Kädelläsi,” or another song that brings a sense of calm to you. Let thoughts come and go as they will. Rest knowing you are in God’s hands, now and always.

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