

Today I joined with sisters and brothers throughout the world praying “The Lord’s Prayer” at Noon. Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin Welby (spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion) and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry of the Episcopal Church invited humanity to join them in prayer. It is amazing to hear the prayer and the voices from all over the world joining together in common fellowship and love. It is amazing that in this time of physical distancing we can gather spiritually and pray with others virtually in the private space of our homes. Our lives are connected to each other and in this time of unsettled waters we still can gather and pray and remind ourselves of the connectedness we have with each other and with our Creator God.

For those of us living in Michigan we are under mandatory sheltering at home. We don’t know honestly how long this sheltering at home will last. We know that the Coronavirus-19 has infected many and yes, there has been death in our midst. Our lives are disrupted and we wait and we pray and we take a pause in our lives. Our faith for many of us carry us through each day. Life is not as it was. That is for sure. But I think of some of the scripture passages that get me through the day such as Psalm 27:1, ‘You are my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear.’ Or John 1:5, ‘The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.’ But the one that touches me the most is from Psalm 121:1-2, ‘I lift up my eyes to the hills-from where will my help come? My help comes from God, who made heaven and earth.’ How can I forget Psalm 18:1, ‘You are my strength, O God, and I love you’ or John 15:12, where Jesus said, ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved.’ Our steadfastness in the one who Created and loves humanity stands with us during these turbulent times. We are all connected and life continues in and with God.

I write this article today in which the Church celebrates the Day of the Annunciation. Nine months from now we will celebrate Christmas with the birth of the one we call Jesus. I can tell you that for Mary and Joseph this was not an easy time to be pregnant nor to give birth. In fact, it was a terrible time of uncertainty and political unrest. Life was bleak for many as most lived in poverty. Nothing was certain and living life was not easy. Yet in the midst of all this instability God chose to remind humanity that we are not alone. God chose to enter this world of uncertainty with all of its chaos. Because God chose to be with humanity his love endures even to this day as we live in uncertainty and upheaval.

God chooses out of his love to be with us and stands with us today and we are reminded of this love in the Annunciation, in the birth of the one we call Jesus, his baptism, his life on this earth, his death and Resurrection. God stands with us and walks with in the midst of our own crisis here and now in the year 2020. God is the calm amidst the rough waves. God is with us and in us and gives us strength even in the midst of the Coronavirus-19 crisis.

A colleague of mine, Lydia Kelsey Bucklin wrote a poem. It touched me deeply and I'd like to share that with you as I bring this article to a close.

Just be.

Be still.

Connect with the inner light.

The inner self.

The deepest knowing of divinity.

It's in there.

It's in all of us.

Find it.

However long it takes, just find it.

And cling to it.

Find the song that brings you there.

Or the photo from your childhood.

The piece of art,

or the smell of certain food.

The voice of a loved one.

Even if she's just a memory.

Only you know what that is,

what you need to connect yourself

to that deep place of knowing.

Of being held in the storm.

What if you were made for a time such as this?

God is with us and perhaps this is our time to connect with God, with the divine in the deepest sense however that might be. Perhaps we have been made for this to take a pause in life and find the source of our comfort and love. For in the turbulence and the unsettled waters of what is happening I believe God continues birthing new beginnings of the Spirit in each of us inviting us to connect in a deeper place with the divine. Let us all redirect ourselves in the midst of this crisis, remembering always that God is with us and in us as we walk this journey together to care for each other, for this earth with compassion and love.

Let us pray:

“Loving God, you have led us to this place, not to shield us from heartache and the pain of human life, but to heal us and inspire us, to gently redirect us, till we see the world as you do and love it with your love.” Amen.