

# Looking for the Light

a devotional from  
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Monday, March 30, 2020

by Harriet Riley

## Read:

Psalm 143 *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

<sup>2</sup> Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. <sup>3</sup> The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in the darkness like those long dead.

<sup>4</sup> So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.

<sup>5</sup> I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. <sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land. <sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, Lord; my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

<sup>8</sup> Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.

<sup>9</sup> Rescue me from my enemies, Lord, for I hide myself in you.

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. <sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, Lord, preserve my life; in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. <sup>12</sup> In your unfailing love, silence my enemies; destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.

## Reflect:

The psalmist voices what is in many of our hearts today as we start our third week in this time apart. They speak of “dwelling in the darkness” as they say, “My spirit grows faint and my heart is dismayed.” Some of us are stuck in the pain, despair and darkness of this time. When we focus on the daily news reports and local coronavirus updates, it can be difficult to see the light. We are grieving the loss of the life we had before the pandemic.

Writer Glennon Doyle says, “First the pain. Then the waiting. Then the rising. Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Fall, Winter, Spring. It’s not personal, it’s just the Way of Things. Cheers to all those in the pain or the waiting tonight. Spring is coming. We can do hard things.”

We are in the pain and waiting time. We are dealing with uncertainty. We all feel this big Pause. In times like this we must know that God is sowing seeds. Those seeds are still below ground and we may not see the growth yet.

The waiting, is “where you don’t know what is going on and you don’t think any of it is going to make sense,” Doyle says. The waiting is the time when we come to accept our current situation and prepare for a new way of living. As we wait for the unknown, ordinary moments take on new meaning. When the future is unknown, the present is all that we have.

The psalmist says, “I spread out my hands to you.” I can picture a hand just reaching out to the Lord. “Show me the way I should go.”

Perhaps we must spend time in the darkness of Good Friday and the waiting of Saturday before Sunday's Resurrection. As Doyle also reminds us, "We belong to each other." While we are physically apart right now, we are still reaching out to each other guiding each other in the dark.

Wednesday before last, when the Spiritually Hungry Women gathered on a Zoom video chat for the first time, tears came to my eyes. I was relieved to see my church family, some of whom I know well and others that are new friends. Even though we were in our own little screens, we were still connected. I had that Resurrection feeling. My heart rose and a light shone through the darkness. God is indeed sharing his "word of unfailing love" in so many ways right now.

**Ask:**

When have you seen ordinary moments take on new meaning? Where are you feeling connections now? How do you see God's hand reaching out?

**Pray:**

Come Lord Jesus,  
Be with us in the pain.  
Stay with us as our hearts become dismayed.  
Do not hide your face from us.

Come Lord Jesus,  
Be with us in the waiting.  
Help us to be patient  
And entrust our lives to you.

Come Lord Jesus,  
Be with us in the rising.  
Show us the light of your risen Son  
and teach us to do your will.  
Amen.

*To send us your prayer requests, click on [this link](#) and our church staff and prayer group will add you to our weekly prayer list. You will have the option to specify your request as confidential.*

*If you would like to contribute to our daily devotionals, please email Pastor Sarah, [sarah@scapc.org](mailto:sarah@scapc.org).*

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