

Looking for the light

a devotional from
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thursday, March 26, 2020

by Henrietta Harris

Read:

Psalm 130

Waiting for Divine Redemption
A Song of Ascents.

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

2 Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

8 It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Reflect:

I have been a fan of Alexander McCall Smith since 1998 with his introduction of THE NO.1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY Series. His major character, Precious Ramotswe, has given me much joy for over twenty-two years. His poem reminds me of the eminently sensible Precious. His poem that follows continues his sensitivity as a wonderful thoughtful human being and I am so happy to share, IN A TIME OF DISTANCE, with others.

In A Time of Distance
Alexander McCall Smith

The unexpected always happens in the way
The unexpected has always occurred:
While we are doing something else,
While we are thinking of altogether
Different things — matters that events
Then show to be every bit as unimportant
As our human concerns so often are;
And then, with the unexpected upon us,

We look at one another with a sort of surprise;
How could things possibly turn out this way
When we are so competent, so pleased
With the elaborate systems we've created —
Networks and satellites, intelligent machines,
Pills for every eventuality — except this one?

And so we turn again to face one another
And discover those things
We had almost forgotten,
But that, mercifully, are still there:
Love and friendship, not just for those
To whom we are closest, but also for those
Whom we do not know and of whom
Perhaps we have in the past been frightened;
The words brother and sister, powerful still,
Are brought out, dusted down,
Found to be still capable of expressing
What we feel for others, that precise concern;
Joined together in adversity
We discover things we had put aside:
Old board games with obscure rules,
Books we had been meaning to read,
Letters we had intended to write,
Things we had thought we might say
But for which we never found the time;
And from these discoveries of self, of time,
There comes a new realization
That we have been in too much of hurry,
That we have misused our fragile world,
That we have forgotten the claims of others
Who have been left behind;
We find that out in our seclusion,
In our silence; we commit ourselves afresh,
We look for a few bars of song
That we used to sing together,
A long time ago; we give what we can,
We wait, knowing that when this is over
A lot of us — not all perhaps — but most,
Will be slightly different people,
And our world, though diminished,
Will be much bigger, its beauty revealed afresh.

Ask:

- * Why will you be a different person after this COVID 19?
- * What scripture have you relied upon doing this period?
- * Have you experienced an Act of Kindness during this period?

Pray:

THE ROAD AHEAD by Thomas Merton, as we ask for guidance:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.



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If you would like to contribute to our daily devotionals, please email Pastor Sarah, sarah@scapc.org.

www.scapc.org

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