

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

March 2021

Greetings,

March 13th will mark one year since Governor Baker imposed a “lockdown” in Massachusetts. It has been a tough twelve months. Loved ones have been lost to the SARS- CoV-2 virus; others still battle Long Covid. School and work, shopping and worship have all drastically altered. We wonder when – or if - life will return to its pre-pandemic form.

Impacting - and impacted by- this virus outbreak are climate change, political and economic turmoil, and other maladies of body, mind and spirit. Our world is teetering on its axis. A clergy colleague recently cried out, “I want to scream at God – WHY?????”

Oh, please don’t! Scream if you wish – it is sometimes the only utterance we have left. But don’t scream AT God. Don’t blame Her or assume that He has willed or allowed such widespread suffering. Nothing could be farther from the truth!

Scripture tells us that God is our Loving Parent; an all-giving father, a mother who crouches down to our level to better nourish us. ⁱ God is not a distant or unfeeling deity; our distress causes God equal pain.ⁱⁱ I would argue that the greatness of Divine love magnifies Divine pain beyond our imaginings.

This is a love and compassion that constantly reaches out to rescue and restore. It is a commitment to humankind that inspires ALL solutions, enables and empowers ALL who strive for the common good.

Bill Vanstone writes:

“If the creation is the work of love, its ‘security’ lies not in its conformity to some predetermined plan but in its unsparing love which will not abandon a single fragment of it, and [humanity’s] assurance must be the assurance not that all that happens is determined by God’s plan but that all that happens is encompassed by His love.” ⁱⁱⁱ

God, “in the extremity of endeavour”, is working tirelessly to restore our wounded planet, heal our broken hearts and renew our fractured lives. ^{iv}

*He doesn’t send someone else to help us.
He does it himself, in person.^v*

May you know the deep blessings of God’s love,
Brenda

ⁱ Luke 12: 9-13; Hosea 11: 3-4

ⁱⁱ Isaiah 63: 8b-9

ⁱⁱⁱ William Vanstone, “Love’s Endeavour, Love’s Expense” Darton, Longman, Todd, 1977

^{iv} ibid

^v Isaiah 63: 9 The Message