

Opening Prayer for LCWR9 regional meeting.

October 26, 2020

Introduction

During this time of such upheaval in our country we can feel powerless and threatened. Let us take courage from this story about what happened to Elijah when Jezebel threatened his life.

Reading I Kings 19:3-8

Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. The word of the Lord.

A time of quiet reflection.

Closing Song (youtube video)

"Somos el Barco"

**Somos el barco, somos el mar
Yo navego en ti, tu navegas en mi
We are the boat, we are the sea
I sail in you, you sail in me**

The stream sings it to the river, the river sings it to the sea
The sea sings it to the boat that carries you and me

The boat we are sailing in was built by many hands
And the sea we are sailing on, it touches every land

So with our hopes we set the sails and face the winds once more
And with our hearts we chart the waters never sailed before

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Recording by Peter, Paul and Mary

Soft music Ashokan Farewell

LEADER: "A common mistake we make is that we look for God in places where we ourselves wish to find him, yet even in the physical reality this is a complete failure. For example, if you lost your car keys, you would not search where you want to search, you would search where you must in order to find them."

- *Criss Jami*

THE TROUGH

There is a trough in waves,
A low spot
Where horizon disappears
And only sky
And water
Are our company.

And there we lose our way
Unless
We rest, knowing the wave will bring us
To its crest again.

There we may drown
If we let fear
Hold us within its grip and shake us
Side to side,
And leave us flailing, torn, disoriented.

But if we rest there
In the trough,
Are silent,
Being with
The low part of the wave,
Keeping our energy and
Noticing the shape of things,

The flow,
Then time alone
Will bring us to another place
Where we can see
Horizon, see the land again,
Regain our sense
Of where we are

And where we need to swim.

By Judy Sorum Brown,
from *Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems*.

Time of quiet reflection: Where do we find your troughs?



CLOSING PRAYER:

LEADER: Loving God, please grant me peace of mind and calm my troubled heart. My soul is like a turbulent sea. I can't seem to find my balance so I stumble and worry constantly. Give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you've laid out for me. I trust your Love God, and know that you will heal this stress. Just as the sun rises each day against the dark of night. Please bring me clarity with the light of God. In your name I pray,

- Author Unknown..

L: O God come to our assistance

All: O Lord make haste to help us.

L: We reflect on the LCWR Call for 2015-2022

Prologue

Standing on the rich history of our past and the communion present among us, we, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, commit ourselves to seeking God who beckons to us from a future abundant in grace, full of challenge, and rich in possibility. As we live the years ahead, we remain inspired by the radical call of the Gospel, filled with hope, and committed to discerning together the leading of God's Spirit. Affirming LCWR's mission and setting direction for the coming years, we embrace our time as holy, our leadership as gift, and our challenges as blessing.

We are ecclesial women, living in hope, rooted in the mission of Jesus. We claim our prophetic role and inherent responsibility in the church by grounding all we are and all we do in a contemplative stance, by living in right relationship with all creation and being in solidarity with the global community.

We live in a world filled with the action of God's creating love and are partners of that divine activity in a time when major social and global change creates both enormous challenge and significant opportunity.

We abide in a church whose members experience a renewed call to live the heart of the Gospel. We commit ourselves to work with others to nurture a church that is a more inclusive, welcoming community, one that encourages meaningful expressions of faith and spirituality. We seek to bring science, theology, and lived-experience into greater dialogue and desire to create safe, honest places for open exploration of the pressing questions of these times.

We lead congregations faithful to the call of the Gospel that attempt to bridge the tradition which grounds us and the future which calls us forward.

Reflection

We reflect quietly on how different our world, our church, and our congregations have become because of the COVID pandemic. Almost every aspect of our lives has changed. Yet, we are still called to lead. The needs of our sisters have increased, and we search for ways to help them adjust, to accept and follow the new regulations. LCWR has helped us with suggestions and, reflections.

The **scripture** also reminds us that God is with us.

“I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

“Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you, and uphold you with my right hand of justice.” (Isaiah 41:10)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me.” (John 14:1)“

“And know that I am with you always until the end of the world!” (Matthew 28:20)

This video has been recently created (Aug 2020) at a time when in light of the Corona Virus many are struggling with uncertainty and anxiety. The song endeavors to offer God's blessing to all at this time.

Blessing of Hospitality by Marie Dunne CHF

May God's love enfold you with tenderness and care

May God's strength protect you from all that you may fear

May God's peace go with you wherever you may go

And as God walks beside you may you never feel alone.

May you find your home in God whose home is in your heart

May your heart be home for those who struggle in the dark

May God's light shine brightly so you won't lose your way

May God's gentle healing be yours when you're in pain.

May God's spirit guide you so you will always know

The path that leads to God alone where you are most at home

May you find your home in God whose home is in your heart.

May your heart be home for those who struggle in the dark

May you find your home in God whose home is in your heart

May your heart be home for those who struggle in the dark

Closing Blessing, Oct 28, 10:50 AM

Leader: We bring together all the stirrings of the Spirit that have come in these days.

All: Stir us anew. Strengthen our connections. Bless our going out.

Prayer: Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray, that they may see what must be done and gain strength to do what they have seen. We ask in Jesus' name.

All: Amen

Reading: Ephesians 1:16-19

For this reason, I do not cease to give thanks for you
as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,
so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,
according to the working of his great power.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Quiet Reflection: For what gifts reaped from this meeting are you thankful?

What gifts do you wish for LCWR9 members in the coming weeks?

Farewell moment: As a moment of farewell to one another voice a blessing for the group.

Closing Song: All Shall be Well by Carol Browning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoSVDhqacnQ>