



Mission Personnel

April 1, 2020

Greetings from Louisville!

Over the past few weeks I've moved through various stages of feeling scared, unsure, helpless, in disbelief that this is happening, mad and sad that important events have been cancelled. It's crazy how quickly daily life can be completely disrupted. Despite these horrific times, we are being presented with such an opportunity to change our perspective. This is a historic chapter for the entire world to learn from. How you choose to react to this change is up to you. We are all in this together and it's important to take time for yourself to acknowledge this part of the story. I found this poem to be an inspiring perspective and thought I would share it with you along with a couple brief updates/reminders.

Announcements and reminders:

- We encourage you to read the Presbyterian News Service story "Discernment and prayers guide World Mission Crisis Management Team" published today at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/discernment-and-prayers-guide-world-mission-crisis-management-team/>
- We invite you to zoom with us this Thursday and Friday. For more information, please refer to the message from Sara dated March 31, 2020.

"LOCKDOWN"

by Brother Richard Hendrick in Ireland

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise, you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes, but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi, people are singing to each other across the empty squares. Keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighborhood, So that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way, with empathy and compassion.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality --

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To love.

So we pray and we remember that -

Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be selfishness.

Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.

Today, breathe.

The birds are singing again, the sky is clearing, spring is coming, And we are always encompassed by love.

Open the windows of your soul.

And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square, Sing!

Best wishes and health,

Katie

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