

## **Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!**

We have just emerged from the season the season of Lent, a Lent the likes of which few, if any of us, have previously experienced. Together we rejoice in the Resurrection of our Brother and Savior even as we mourn the thousands of casualties worldwide, victims of a persistent killer we call COVID-19. On our great high feast of Easter, we are faced with the loss of lives along with the loss of our ability to gather together physically and give thanks and praise in our accustomed places of worship. What irony this presents! At the time of the year we most desire to assemble in our worshiping communities and give voice to our love and gratitude to our Creator God for the gift of eternal life through the overwhelming sacrifice Jesus made for us we are prevented from doing so by an insidious mortal enemy. We rejoice in His victory over termination of personal existence, yet we are prevented from communally giving voice by an invisible silent and forceful opponent, an enemy who is devastating our world and claiming the mortal lives of thousands of our brothers and sisters. It can be tempting to fall into the delusion that our God caused our current situation and does not hear our pleas for mercy and healing of our world but it has been said that God sometimes writes straight with crooked lines.

We may be prevented from gathering to worship together as is our custom but, looking around at this new reality, we see how the Creator has used this crisis to bring an awareness of human commonality and the frailty of our habitat to the forefront of our awareness. We see research, information and help crossing international borders, borders we have forged in the mistaken belief that they will keep us safe. We see doctors, nurses, EMTs and other health care professionals risking their own lives to assist and care for brothers and sisters of different nationalities, faiths, religious and political ideologies in the belief of that commonality. We see clerks, grocery workers and others involved in crucial daily activities risking contagion to make sure we are able to obtain food, that our utilities are maintained. We see strangers smiling with their eyes as they pass us at distance, acknowledging the fact that we're all in this together. We see neighbors reaching out to check on neighbors, shopping for those unable to leave their homes, giving food and funds to those are hard hit financially, doing whatever they can to ease the pain.

This time will pass and we'll emerge stronger, hopefully with a better realization that we are, indeed, one family inhabiting this beautiful blue marble in a universe made by a loving and gentle Creator who may use adversity to make us realize that we are indeed one people and all children of a loving God.

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- Helen Campbell