

**ST. JOSEPH SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES**  
**A Congregation Ministry**  
**of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston**



**Staying Connected in this Uncertain Time**

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As we carry on here at SJSM in remote locations we are taking some contemplative time to reflect on a favorite Scripture passage that has held meaning for us in past difficulties and what it may be saying or inviting us to look at in new ways during this global crisis.

**From Lamentation to Resurrection**  
**by Dorothea Masuret, CSJ**

**“So now, deliver their children to famine, do away with them by the sword... may cries be heard from their homes.”** (Jeremiah 18: 21-22)

**All my enemies shall be put to shame in utter terror.”**

(Psalm 6:11)

Psalms and prayers of lament have never been my go-to place for reflection and meditation. I would much prefer the words that lead to gratitude, awareness of God’s presence, praise and joy. In fact, lament psalms are often omitted in my prayer circles for they seem too violent and not fitting our desire to be a community of Unifying Love. Who wants to hear about condemnation and calling down evil upon the enemy?



*Photo by Beverly Good, used with permission*

However, a recent incident helped me to appreciate the saving grace the psalmists’ cries exemplify. The incident to which I refer happened after a Community meeting when one among us was heard declaring in very bold and condemning ways a wish that a person who epitomized all that is going wrong in the world might be taken from this world! At first hearing, I was dismayed that this outrage was spoken so blatantly, however, with further reflection, I began to see that this anger expressed in 2020 language what the psalmists were expressing in times past.

While often the lament psalms’ angry tone, might seem off-putting, further consideration is helping me to see how it expresses the trust, strength, and passion for what life should be. In fact, it can be a prayer, so intimate that it must come from the deepest place in God’s heart. Doesn’t God weep with us as we name the wrongs that need to be righted, the systems that cry out for change and the lives that long for the courage to be transformed? “God weeps over Jerusalem.” How happy God must be when we join him in this weeping!

Lament praying, I am learning, does not end with complaining, the calling down wrath upon someone or something, or expressing outrage, but rather demands a willingness to sit quietly with God in our helplessness and our being out-of-control. It asks us to be in a place of stillness to ask for Help, Healing, Restoration. In this place of stillness with God, new life begins to emerge.

Haven’t these past days that we call holy and the pandemic that defies all that we could have ever imagined call us into that stillness to see what God is doing among us. While we celebrated most of Lent without the Eucharist and the Triduum via television or computer, the miracle of Resurrection has never been so profound.

As a nation we are having a common experience of helplessness and being out of control, a new reference point for us all. Our lives have been turned upside down. In the midst of this, new leadership has emerged that is thoughtful, prayerful, and trusting in the goodness of the common folks. They are putting the lives of people first, that the poorest and fragile among us will be taken care of. People from all ranks of life are performing heroic tasks for the common good, often risking their own lives in the process. We are seeing Unifying Love in action. God's mystery, like never before, is surrounding us. It is stunning.

How important it is to continue to revel in the stillness of these days. How important that we continue to see how God is being resurrected among us. How important it is that we, like the early disciples, keep supporting and witnessing to this restoration of the soul of the world. Christ has died, Christ has truly risen. Christ will come again!

Blessings,  
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