

GRASPING FOR MUCH-NEEDED GRACE:

20 Days of Nonpartisan Prayer in a Polarized Political Season

Vermont Conference (UCC) Prayer Initiative

Fall 2020

“How can I find you?”

Scripture focus: Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit? To be out of your sight? If I climb to the sky, you're there! If I go underground, you're there! If I flew on morning's wings to the far western horizon, you'd find me in a minute - you're already there waiting! Then I said to myself, “Oh, he even sees me in the dark! At night I'm immersed in the light!” It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you; night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you. Psalm 139

Reflection: It is so easy to feel abandoned by God. I look around our world and see despair, fear, rancor, destruction, and hatred. Specifically, I see illness, suffering, death, fire, hurricanes, lying and cheating. I won't go on. You get the idea. We live in perilous times.

Where are you, God? If indeed you are everywhere, how can I find you?

When each of us does what we can for the common good, we find many ways, large and small, to engage and be positive. We're all doing it: spending time with family and friends; giving money to causes we value; checking in with neighbors; volunteering in myriad ways; talking and listening to each other; smiling beneath our masks; reading and learning and teaching; protesting and resisting; caring for children and elders. (Insert your action here!) Often, just staying quiet and out of the fray is exactly the right and best thing to do at that moment. I find that in doing good, in a humble, “I think God is with me” sort of way, I am saving myself from despair, serving others, finding God, and spreading God's love.

Prayer: God of everywhere, welcome to my small corner. Please stick around, outside of me and inside of me, above me and below, by day and by night. I understand that I share you with everyone else. Yet, when my heart and mind are open, you are my closest companion. Amen.

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