

FROM THE EDGE IN CORONA-TIDE

*What does God ask of us? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.
(Micah 6:8)*

I wonder what things will be like after this pandemic? I wonder when things will get “back to normal.” I hope that in facing the future I will be more open to learning new rules of social behavior, that there will arise within me a more willing spirit to embrace “us” rather than “me” ...

In my morning devotions this week, I realized how much I have been focusing on myself during this virus quarantine. It is probably natural. It is a perfect time to look inward and to reflect on self-improvement and personal spiritual growth. That is important. However, it is so easy for me to get stuck on one thing, especially me! Feeling locked inside and out of my usual “normal” routine has been a challenge. Oh, I get outside about every other day for exercise and go to the grocery once a week but for the most part, it is just me and my husband inside the house, learning to be together (all day long) and still be in our own space. I am sure this has been a challenge for each of you, although in different ways. So, how do we maintain our sense of self and community while confined to one physical place?

In my musings about self-development and my devotional readings, I was struck by this verse in Micah: *What does God ask of us? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.*

Being a person who is called to serve is always a challenge. And, it occurs to me that continuing to listen and learn what that means is understanding what it means to get “back to normal,” to get back to what God calls me to, and that is *to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.* I must do that with myself and with others – it’s not a me-only process and it’s not about returning to the past and doing things the same way. God’s call “to serve” is always changing and always humbling, so there can never be a going back or getting back to doing things the way they were. God leads us into the future and walks with us the whole way, no matter where that leads. I just hope I remember that the next time I start longing for things to get “back to normal,” and that God’s love is all that really matters.

Peace is all that matters
In the silence of the heart,
The one who called you here is with you still,
Let that love hold you now
For hearts need time to heal,
Love has not gone
Let the one who called you here guide you still.

Peace is all that matters now
Hold the silence in your heart,
Give the world its noise, clamoring to be heard
And let love hold you now,
For peace is all that matters.