

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:  
SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION  
MEDITATION  
(SERVICES CANCELED WEEK 11)**

**5/24/2020**

Dear Friends,

During the evening news, I watched a large number of doctors, nurses and other hospital staff make a pathway for a discharged survivor of COVID 19 and they were applauding and celebrating his recovery even with all their PPE on. The last time that I was in such a celebration applauding someone was when I was among the hundreds of family members applauding for my husband as he and his unit debarked the buses on a tarmac in Richmond completing his 18-month deployment in Iraq as Chaplain.

Battles remind us of our immortality and also of the reasons to fight for our lives. We celebrate the end of battles, but we never forget the company of angels that got us through the fight. As the last remaining Veterans of WWII remain, and as all combat veterans still with us, and as the multitude of family members honor their fallen fellow soldiers and beloved family members, so indeed shall we on this Memorial Day, May 25.

Like all the wars, genocides, famines, natural disasters and epidemics, including our current pandemic, we can't avoid the sense of sorrow, it's universal. And yet, one of the oldest hymns in our *Hymnal 1982*, *O God our help in ages past*, offers a spiritual pathway as a way to live with sorrows in and through the unavoidable battles of life.

*O God our help in ages past our hope for years to come, be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home. (Issac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90:1-5).*

Faithfully, Beverly+

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER PATHWAYS      MAY 24, 2020**

**PRAYER**

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Lessons of the Day: Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36; Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11.

### ***IN-BETWEEN TIMES***

This past Thursday was Ascension Day, when we celebrated the risen Jesus ascending into heaven. He left the disciples gaping into the stratosphere, wondering where he'd gone and wondering how they're going to get along without him. We recognize such times of utter loss, confusion and question. We find ourselves in a pause *between* the actions of God -- a pause in which all the community can do is to wait and pray. Being suspended between memory and hope.

There are many of us living like that today -- a place where we are suspended between memory and hope. Between the memory of high school and the hope of college, or the memory of college and the *hope* of a new life after graduation. This is more than a time of year of passage between schools and life, for some it can be between the *memory* of employment and the *hope* of a new and fulfilling job. Between the *memory* of good health and the *hope* of renewed vigor. Between the *memory* of a loved one by our side and the *hope* that life can someday make sense again when we are reunited with our loved ones. This time we will remember as the year of the Pandemic.

There is much about this Sunday between Ascension and Pentecost (NEXT WEEK) that reflects our life. But those times when it seems all we can do is to wait and pray need not be a wasteland. In pray and study, we can review, take stock of our lives and search for a different or perhaps waiting soulful strength based on the lessons we learn as people of The Way of Jesus.

In this Gospel message, we find Christ Jesus praying for us when he says: "Protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one." This prayer for us arrives upon our souls whether we are in the kitchen, in the store, waiting in a line, driving home, reading to our child, sleeping and rising. Read aloud Jesus' Priestly Prayer given to us, and allow the words to restore you and hold you up in ministry.

*Christ our lover to whom we try to cling: as you have reached into our depths and drawn us to love you, So make us open, freely to let you go; that you may return in unexpected power to change the world through us, in your name. Amen*

Janet Morley, *All Desires Known*. (Morehouse Publishing) p. 17.

In Christ,

*Beverly+*