

'To Make Us What We Otherwise Would Never Be'

Reflection for Week of April 20, 2020

We begin a new week in this Easter season aware of a great transformation occurring in the world through the current crisis. May our prayer ready us to participate in this transformation, while holding in our hearts all who are suffering.

Suggested Music: "I am a God Nearby," – David Kauffman ([click here](#))



Like cloud-shapes, torn and molded by the wind,
the world is being changed, and rapidly.
What comes into the Fullness
falls toward the Ancient Source, and gratefully.

Soaring over the tumult and the change,
like some great bird, borne further and higher,
intones the Song that pierced the dawn
on that First Day, O God of the lyre.

No one ought ever love their suffering,
but no one ever loves without its pain;
and as we die, we come to wondering

if there was something we could not yet see—
that winged Thing
that merges with Earth's suffering
to make us what we otherwise would never be.

Rainer Maria Rilke
"Sonnet on Suffering Transformed"

Hope

Hope that is seen is no hope at all.
Who hopes for what they already have?

But if we hope for what we do not yet
have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in
our weakness. We do not know what we
ought to pray for, but the Spirit inter-
cedes for us through wordless groans.
– Romans 8: 24-26

For Your Reflection:

Our call in these times includes working to see the deeper invitation that the pandemic is providing. How might we be conscious of the transformation occurring within ourselves, our communities, the nation, and the global community as we live through this time? Reflecting and perhaps journaling with the following questions and, if possible, engaging in contemplative dialogue on them may be one of the most important contributions we can make in this challenging time.

How is it for you to see the world being rapidly changed? From where do you find the grace to live peacefully through the change?

In what ways are you sensing this crisis is making us "what we otherwise would never be"?



Concluding Prayer

May we have the grace to wait with hope and with patience, trusting that the Spirit is indeed interceding through our wordless groans as we seek to participate in this great transformation. Amen.