



*At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the ruler of the power of the air. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in persons whose lives are characterized by disobedience.*

Ephesians 2:1-2 CEB

I imagine most of you haven't noticed, but I haven't written a devotional for many months. I have just been empty of ideas and words. I don't know if it is the issues of the pandemic and social isolating, or if it is the hateful election season. I felt like whatever I might write or say would just be an echo of what others are saying. Now I've decided that echoing what some people say isn't so bad at all. We echo the words of Jesus every Sunday in worship. And this devotional will echo the words of the Apostle Paul to the Church at Ephesus and some of the words of Father Richard Rohr in his devotionals on sin last week.

What I have realized is that I am tired. I'm so very tired of our lives under COVID. I'm tired, I'm so very sick and tired of this hateful election season when every second and third commercial on television is a hate-filled political ad. This exhaustion not only makes me tired but impacts my mental health. I can't help but think that this same thing may be happening to you as well.

For today's devotional, I used the scripture from the Letter to the Ephesians, cited above, that speaks of our personal sin, the worldly sin of injustice and the evil that permeates the very air we breathe. Like many churches, in our church we tend to focus on the personal and the worldly injustice, but we rarely speak about the evil that we breathe. In writing about these three aspects of sin, Father Richard Rohr says that we abandon the third – the sin that permeates the air we breathe – at the risk of our destruction. Why do you think that is? I think it is because we are like fish who swim in the water but don't know they are swimming in the water. We are surrounded by so many personal and worldly injustices in our world that we don't even notice that we're swimming in it. Consider, white privilege that so many white people don't even know, much less understand, they benefit from. What I know about evil is that it is spiritual, powerful and will not give up easily. That is what we are in the midst of right now.

What we can expect is that even after COVID has subsided, which won't be for a while yet, and even after November 3, there will still be work to do to heal our broken world. It will require each of us to rise up from where we are in the midst of our grief from all the deaths, our sorrow because of all those who are sick, our disappointment at all opportunities that have been lost, our joy or sorrow at the results of the election, our fear at what might happen in the wake of the election - a challenge to our constitution, vigilante violence. We as people who believe that God gets the last word and that word is love, will have to rise up and help to heal our heart broken and life broken world.

So, I want to ask each of us to take some time each morning and/or evening right now and in the days and weeks ahead, to build a place of silence, peace and hope in our hearts, minds and souls. Let us prepare ourselves for God to turn us to a new way of being in the world, a way where all have what they need, and all have hope. May it be so.

*Holy One, come to us, turn your face to us, help us to rise up and be seen, be heard, be present and make a difference for our world that need us so much. Amen.*

