

## Eyes on the Horizon: The Pandemic and What is to Come



Dear WATER Friends and Colleagues,

We greet you with an elbow bump and a smile at this liminal time in our fragile world's history. We respect the need for extra protection especially for the most vulnerable among us, and the need to keep our spirits up as part of surviving this pandemic and moving into the new context that will emerge.

Please take special care during these troubled times. We know that this too shall pass. In the meantime there is much uncertainty, suffering, and death especially for those who are poor and marginalized. They are our first concern.

The WATER office will close today for several weeks, but our upcoming WATERritual on Harriet Tubman, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM ET, will continue over the phone. Register here: <http://www.waterwomensalliance.org/waterrituals/>. We follow the schedule of Montgomery County Public Schools; they have decided to close for two weeks. Other local schools will be out for four weeks. We will reconvene in person when it is safe as indicated by local health officials.

We will do what is prudent, working at home and on-line to provide the programs, publications, consulting, and ritual resources that you have come to rely on. You can reach us easily any time at [waterstaff@hers.com](mailto:waterstaff@hers.com), [mhunt@hers.com](mailto:mhunt@hers.com), or [dneu@hers.com](mailto:dneu@hers.com). Feel free to contact us as you would under normal circumstances. If you wish to talk, just send us a number and we will call you.

Our focus, after the world takes a pause and those who are ill are cared for, is on the horizon, the time when the global pandemic is contained. This is like a Jubilee time, a holy interval, when the land lies fallow, debts are forgiven, rest and renewal fuel the next stage of human history.

Our spiritual traditions, leavened by women's ancient unto contemporary wisdom, allow us a few certainties:

1. The needs of those who are most at risk—the poor, the sick, the elderly, those who are alone—are of priority concern.
2. The basic human rights to medical care, food, work, and the like need to be enshrined, not given provisionally at times of crisis, but woven into the fabric of a good society.
3. Kindness and care for immigrants and orphans, struggling students and frail elderly are hallmarks of the society we want post-pandemic, not just during its height.
4. The vast wealth—both economic and environmental—of our globe needs to be shared, socialized, to insure that all have access to long and healthy lives.

These are part of WATER's vision for our collective future. When the museums and schools reopen, when everyone has health care, sick leave, and childcare all the time not just in a pandemic, it will be a new day. We will be a step closer to our goal of justice and mutuality. We commit to work to make this vision reality. We struggle to make something substantive to emerge from this global emergency.

Watch for WATER's April program dates. Join us over the phone for the upcoming WATERtalk, WATERmeditation, and WATERritual later in April. Meanwhile, wash your hands as if you were going to prepare dinner for Ruth Bader Ginsberg!

Warm wishes from the WATER staff. Please let us know how we can be helpful to you and your communities in these challenging times.

With Hope and Cherry Blossoms,

Mary E. Hunt, MTS '73, PhD., Diann L. Neu, Techika Rhodes, Laura Carr-Pries, and Joe Scinto

WATER, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual  
Silver Springs, MD