

LISTENING ALONGSIDE



ECHOING CHRIST

Lenten Devotions 2017

Tuesday of Holy Week, April 11, 2017

God bless my coming and my going By Marion Clark Weathers

Tuesday November 22, 2016, began as a normal busy day. Ray and I did the 8:15 am Yoga class at the YMCA. I then went to my painting class at Barton College, did a newspaper interview on the drive home, and sang at the pre-Thanksgiving choir practice that night. I almost made it through the day unscathed.

Almost.

BAM!

In a moment, everything changed.

The driver who ran the red light is not the focus of this story. He ran away. He left. The brave neighbors who helped me at their peril (gas was pouring out under the car as they disengaged the battery to prevent a fire) is another story to tell at a different time, as is what it's like to see airbags and get cut out of a car. The pelvis broken in many places, and the long recovery, is not the focus of the story, but we're getting warmer. I have never been this still in my whole life.

God has been speaking to me in many ways.

"Be still, and know that I am God."

"Child, there is a reason you are in this place."

This has become a spiritual journey. I have received an unprecedented outpouring of love and concern from friends, family, and especially my Lakeside family. One morning at BTAR, the nurse brought me six cards in the mail! She told me I got more mail than anybody! I am glad - I have been lifted up by every visit, every call, every card, every meal, every prayer. I am still amazed to know so many people care about me.

I was hurt, but I am OK. I have learned to appreciate the everyday normal little things we all take for granted...like taking a step.

“God bless my coming and my going.”

God did bless my coming and my going. He blessed my going, on that Tuesday night, along River Road when I had the accident. He blessed my coming and my going, and was with me every step of the way. He could not stop what was happening, but he protected me. I could have been hurt so much worse. During this Lenten Season, I give special thanks for all the blessings I have received, and continue to receive. God still has plans for me. I am still coming and going. There is so much more I want to accomplish on this earth before I leave.

Prayer

Gracious God,
Forgive those things we have done
which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done
that would have brought you joy.
In both we have failed
ourselves,
and you.
Bring us back to that place
where our journey began,
when we said that we would follow
the way that you first trod.
Lead us to the Cross
and meet
us there. Amen.

—From www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Lent.htm

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

John 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.