

Salt – Light – Hope

reflections and care for those who serve in pandemic
rebecca blair, stated clerk

April 7

“The tragedy we are experiencing summons us to take seriously the things that are serious, and not to be caught up in those that matter less; to rediscover that life is of no use if not used to serve others. For life is measured by love.”

--Pope Francis (Tweet, Monday, April 6, Holy Week 2020)

The prophetic preacher shared this pandemic wisdom: “Let our strength be found in love. Love, and only love, will save us.” The hymn to Christian love in 1 Corinthians 13, words we’ve often repeated and cherished, reminds us of the serious things, the servanthood things. Without love that sees the Other, our words and actions mean nothing. Without love, we really can give nothing or affect anything.

I invite you to follow the process of Lectio Divina (Read – Meditate – Pray – Contemplate) as you encounter this scripture from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. **It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.***

Please pray with me—

Infinite God, whom no image can encompass, no definition encircle, who meets us in our joy, our anxiety, and our deep shadows,

Help us to hear abiding hope in the scripture’s unshakeable assurance that “perfect love casts out fear,” that voices or actions rooted in places of fear or harm are not those of the Beloved, for the Beloved whispers softly to the soul: “You are sacred. You are blessed. You are beloved. You are a reflection of me.” Amen and amen.

