



Reflection for November 4, 2020 Prayers for our Nation

*What does the LORD require of you
but to do justice,
and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?* [Micah 6:8]

I write this reflection before we know the outcome of the national election; indeed you may be reading it before we know the outcome.

However, we do know that we have begun a new phase of our journey, as a nation and as a faith community. We know ourselves differently than we did eight months ago.

The pandemic has given us new insight into our darkness as well as our lightness.

We have confronted the difference between what we *want* and what we *need*.

We have learned that we are more deeply connected to each other through our shared vulnerability than by our strengths.

We have had to look at the racial and economic injustice that has simmered under the surface of our history for 400 years.

We have had to admit that our own Christian tradition has embraced a triumphalism that has had the unintended consequences of destroying cultures that might have enriched our understanding of God's mysterious ways.

We have shared an intensity of hope and a depth of longing that we did not know was possible.

We have affirmed that the Body of Christ is not confined to buildings, even while we recognize how much we love the place where we worship together.

We now know that there is no reason to wait before taking the steps necessary to becoming the Beloved Community, embracing difference and finding strength in our weakness, open to infinite possibilities that we have not yet imagined.

We now know that being faithful is not complicated, even if it is not always easy.

Put your ear to the ground

and listen:

hurried, worried footsteps,

bitterness, rebellion.

Hope hasn't yet begun.

Listen again.

Put our feelers.

The Lord is there.

He is far less likely

to abandon us

in hardship

than in times of ease.

Dom Helder Camara, Brazil