

Daily Reflection

March 30, 2020

If you have not had a fit of anxiety yet over the state of the world, plan on it coming. We are only human. The future is unclear, and that makes us anxious.

The second lesson for today's Daily Office addresses getting through this: <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/March/whole/morning/30m.html>

Some in Corinth felt superior because they could speak in tongues. St. Paul put them in their place, by listing that charism low among spiritual gifts. At the top, he put "those who prophesy [and] speak to other people for their building up and encouragement and consolation." We don't need to know the future to be a prophet; we just need to encourage and uplift others.

We have to take turns doing that; we can't all be strong all the time. But we have an ever-present source of strength in the prayers of our tradition. In the first lesson today, Moses (the greatest leader of the Hebrew Scriptures), is a nervous wreck. His knees are knocking at the thought of going back to Egypt and confronting the pharaoh. The prayer that comes right after this lesson, Cantic 9, is a complete counterpoint, declaring confidence in God:

"Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior."

Sometimes we feel exactly as we pray. Sometimes we must pray to shape our feelings. We may always find encouragement and consolation in the prayers found trustworthy for centuries.

Pastor Kathleen Kelly,

Interim Rector

Burning Bush. Seventeenth century painting by
Sébastien Bourdon in the Hermitage Museum,
Saint Petersburg

