



One concept that is being used to help us make sense of 2020 is that of “liminal space.” Liminal space is defined as a “crossing over” space. The word liminal comes from a Latin word which means threshold. It can be described as that in-between space that we find ourselves in when we are waking up in the morning or falling asleep at night. It is the space many of us feel we have been living in during this pandemic and in midst of the social and cultural changes that have been taking place.

Liminal space can be a space of calm certainty. That feeling of peace when you drift off to sleep at night. Liminal space can also be a space of high anxiety. That feeling when you wake up and for a moment you have no idea what day it is. Only in 2020 these roller coaster emotions have been driving us up and down repeatedly. Liminal space can be a space where trusting that God is doing a new thing comes easy. It can also, often, be a space where we wonder where God is.

We are now days away from the Presidential election. It has been contentious. It has been ugly. It has been fraught with ugliness all the way around. And, as we vote, many worry what the days after the election might bring. We worry what may or may not unfold. Like most of 2020 we fear we might be put in front of yet another threshold that we do not want to face. We are tired of the uncertainty and we long for the steady and the familiar.

In the face of this we have a powerful reminder from our Lord and Savior in the scriptures:

***Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10***

Please join me in this prayer from our partners with ELCA worship:

Everlasting God, source of all liberty, before whom every earthly ruler must bow and bend the knee, we lay our nation before you as we prepare for an election. Breathe upon us your Spirit of wisdom and discernment. Grant all who seek public office the mind of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for the freedom of the oppressed. Hold before us those who face uncertain futures, or who have no voice in our political process. Uphold and safeguard poll workers and election officials in their work. Spare us from the crushing weight of cynicism. Give us grace to speak courageously, but with love, without which our words are noise, and we are nothing. Gather us together under the cross, where, in all our difference, we can stand as one people, redeemed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please join us on November 3 for a Voting Day Prayer Vigil. Throughout the day, fellow sojourners will be praying for all of us. See the details on the next page and join whenever you would like to stop in your day for prayer.

God's blessings and love sustain you this day,

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe