



Pilgrimage Through the Pandemic Reflection Guide

Session 1 - Facts from the Frontline: COVID-19 Healthcare and Research

Prepare

Read: Psalm 139:23-24: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Pray: God of all Creation, in you is all knowledge, wisdom, and truth. We are daily bombarded with information, and it is sometimes overwhelming. But amid the chaos, help us listen to all the ways you speak to us – through your Scriptures, through the Holy Spirit, through the witness of your saints, and through the stories of others. May we find clarity and peace in your still, soft voice. Help us discern what is true and be transformed in the way we see, and the way we live, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Listen

Watch: Watch the *Facts from the Frontline: COVID-19 Healthcare and Research* panel at www.durhamcares.org/pilgrimage. Speakers:

- Thomas Denny – COO of Duke Human Vaccine Institute
- Serana Spalding-Markham – Geriatric Nurse Practitioner at UNC Hospitals
- Edwina Gabriel – Director of Nursing at Lincoln Community Health Center
- Robin Hanes-Featherstone – Shaw University, COVID-19 Survivor

Reflect

Take some time on your own, or with your small group, to reflect on the following questions through discussion, contemplation, journaling, or artwork.

1. Edwina Gabriel shared that amid the pandemic, her hope is in the children. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.” (Mark 10:14). In what ways are children witnessing to the kingdom and drawing all of us nearer to the kingdom during these times?

2. Serana Spalding-Markham shared that COVID-19 has led to many other healthcare challenges, on top of COVID-19 positive patients, that are being overlooked. Similarly, Edwina Gabriel shared the many ways the pandemic has impacted Lincoln Health Center and the surrounding Durham community. Consider these realities as you read the story of Elijah at Horeb in 1 Kings 19. How does God help Elijah see the bigger picture? How might we allow God to transform our hearts to see the bigger picture?



3. Robin Hanes-Featherstone shared that her faith in God, based on God's past faithfulness, is what gives her hope and endurance. Read Hebrews 11-12:1-2 and reflect on how Robin's story is part of God's story of faithfulness. How does this relate with your story?

4. Thomas Denny shared that we have a long road ahead of us in our battle against COVID-19. Considering the road ahead with COVID-19, other illnesses, and all their related challenges, pray the Oscar Romero poem below and reflect on how taking the "long view" transforms us.

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent
enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of
saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church's mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.
This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an
opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master
builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future not our own.*