

Holding Heaviness and Hope... Together

Sunday March 29, 2026

Philippians 2:1-4

¹ If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Hebrews 12:1–2

¹ Therefore, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also put aside everything that weighs us down, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that has been set before us.

² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and goal of our faith. **He saw the joy ahead of him**, so he endured death on the cross, and paid no attention to the shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God's throne.

Solnit says something striking about who actually does the work:

“A huge amount of the important work—I was thinking about this when I woke up in the middle of the night—is done by nice ladies. And I think a lot of people with platforms, and a lot of the left, wants social change to look like the French Revolution or Che Guevara or something like that. And so the fact that nice ladies actually change the world, maybe it’s about the fact that changing the world is more like caregiving than it is like war.”

I think even this can be seen as a theological, not just a political, reframe.

The caregiving metaphor has religious roots, lots of them. In Jewish tradition, *chesed* is usually translated as loving-kindness but it’s really more like steadfast relational attentiveness, the quality that holds communities together not through conquest but through showing up, again and again, for the people in front of you.

- Liz Bucar, *Religion, Reimagined*

“(They) call out of the future the longed-for new present.... No doubt our intercessions sometimes change us as we open ourselves to new possibilities we had not guessed. No doubt our prayers to God reflect back upon us as a divine command to become the answer to our prayer. But if we are to take the biblical understanding seriously, intercession is more than that. It changes the world and it changes what is possible to God. It creates an island of relative freedom in a world gripped by an unholy necessity... A space opens in the praying person, permitting God to act without violating human freedom. The change in even one person thus changes what God can thereby do in that world”

- Walter Wink, *The Powers that Be*

For the sake of Jesus, the firstborn of all creation,
who, in death, disarmed all that is evil,
and, in resurrection, stripped death of power,
we ask you to recreate us, to reconnect us,
and to restore to us the vision of your life in creation,
and the power to live it.

Let us open ourselves to the grace of God,
to the brokenness of our world,
and to the call to be agents of healing and recreation.