

## Let's Cope by Kindling Constant Hope!

### **Let's cope by kindling constant hope!**

Our multidimensional mission is clearer every day to which we awaken:

Save lives from the pandemic!

Liberate voices long silenced!

Empower all people who are poor and oppressed for whatever reason!

Empower all people who are excluded and unincluded for whatever  
LACK OF ALL REASON!

Create global consciousness!

Insist on scientific truth!

Don't be a dope! You need to vote!

However, you are not given permission to stop struggling after this  
election is over!

Resist with art!

Become intimate with God!

Heart to heart!

I—Thou!—**art**—in Heaven!

Where would you like to—jump start?

Shouldn't we first—

**Save lives!**

Yes, we are in a dangerous hour!

That's why we must protect everyone we can—from the virus'  
invisible power.

After 8 months of gathering grief, suffering and fatigue, you now have a new mission—should you choose to accept!

Do not believe the herd immunity propaganda!

The people who are promoting this are basically saying a million or more deaths is acceptable.

That is actually a human rights crime, you know!

Trump's latest "all the best people I can find" leader, Dr. Atlas—not to be confused with the Greek Atlas who was made to hold up the sky for an eternity—this Dr Atlas has zero medical experience in the field of epidemiology or infectious diseases, yet claims that supposedly low risk people can ignore all public health precautions and create herd immunity for all.

Tell that to college student LeAndra Breann Stang who was working as a trainer in the Park Hill School District and died last Sunday.

Or Stephanie Moir, who, before she contracted Covid this summer, ran almost every day, pushing her two young children in a jogging stroller.

Today, she has trouble just getting out of bed and showering. She's been dealing with the disease for months, including 8 trips to the emergency room, losing 30 pounds, and and there's still no end in sight.

"I thought I was a healthy 33-year-old," said Moir, a mental health counselor in Tampa, Florida. "I've never had a history of anything remotely like this."

Or ask Natalie Hakala, 22, a healthy competitive college runner before she needed to go to the emergency room in August after she tested positive for Covid-19, and she's still not fully recovered.

In fact, while people over the age of 65 do have a much greater risk of dying of Covid—225,000 now and relentlessly climbing—younger

people, even in their twenties and thirties, have an even greater risk of developing long term health problems if they contract the virus.

Marm Kilpatrick, an infectious-disease researcher at UC Santa Cruz. “says, “Do the symptoms last three months? Six months? Three years? Nobody knows, but I wouldn’t want my pandemic plan to be *Let’s have hundreds of thousands of young people with lifelong illnesses*. I wouldn’t want to tell 30-to-50-year-olds that we’ve signed them up for a high risk of heart disease and chronic organ damage.”

Let’s cope by kindling constant hope by staying the course, practicing self caring practices and caring for others practices when it comes to Covid.

Especially as this fall and winter arrive!

We also have to protect ourselves from leaders who do not appear to care about average people’s lives, whether it is because of Covid, or climate change kindled wildfires, floods and hurricanes or the ever present epidemic of gun violence from too many guns made for warfare being sold into our communities.

This week, I was talking with my brother who lives in Canada, and he told me about a book he is reading entitled “*Midnight in Chernobyl*” by Adam Higginbotham.

It’s the untold story of the world’s greatest nuclear disaster—how the Soviet government covered up the Chernobyl nuclear plant accident—failed to accept responsibility for fundamental failings—ignored warnings from respected scientists over a long period—apportioned blame '*conveniently*'—disregarded the health and safety of its own citizens and of the world in general—all for the goal of protecting the government in power.

Sound familiar?

Please substitute the words “greatest public health disaster” for “greatest nuclear disaster”, substitute the current governments of the United States or China or Brazil for Soviet—now rerun the scene..... *failed to accept responsibility for fundamental failings, ignored warnings from respected scientists.....disregarded the health and safety of its own citizens and of the world in general, all for the goal of protecting the government in power.*

This is why WE THE PEOPLE must make freedom a constant struggle to keep our people—especially the most vulnerable—people of color, seniors, all people with pre-existing health conditions—alive!

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How?

We need to make an evolutionary leap!

We have to learn things from this pandemic.

Let’s not waste a terrible crisis!

Instead turn it into an opportunity —to attain a higher consciousness!

A higher global consciousness!

A deeper God consciousness.

Fly high!

Go deep!

When you fly high, you are taken above!

From a higher altitude, you are able to take in a global landscape!

Humans of all kinds!

“You can’t hide with your own kind”—as Rev. Hubert Neth used to say!

When we go deep—we are taken into the God process!

The spectacular, serendipitous, sweet and sometimes secret activity—of God in the world.

You begin to understand that the earth is a living, breathing, moving being.

You learn that the universe is a living, breathing, moving being!

By looking through the Science window, we are instructed as to how this immense living being works.

Through the Faith window, we are instructed as to what life on earth means and what living in the universe means.

We remember that we are not physical beings having a temporary spiritual existence.

No! We are spiritual beings living a temporary physical experience.

Global consciousness!

God consciousness!

When you become intimate with God!

When you start living inside God!

It is though you were living inside your mother's womb!

You are surrounded by the mother's love!

You are sustained by the mother's power!

You are going to be born into a new existence!

When you become intimate with God—and start taking God as your measure—the distance between you and all other humans—shrinks!

We all come from the same mother and father.

Although not every people believes that, the most recent DNA driven studies of world human migration has almost certainly proved that all of

us have migrated from East Africa—and then spread around the world, sometimes receding during periods of severe climate change.

Regardless of race, color, gender identity, age, sexual orientation and nationality, we are much more the same than we are different.

We have more in common with each other than we have differences.

American, African, Asian, Australian—we are part of a global family.

Many of our families are global families.

How many of our friendships are global friendships.

Our city—with the Performing Arts Center, several universities, Liberty Memorial, rich immigrant communities in the northeast, the west side and suburbs like Olathe— and the creative arts explosion—our city is becoming a global community.

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Love Thy global neighbor!

Love Thy neighborhood God.

Love the The God Who lives in this neighborhood.

Love The God who is working in your neighborhood!

Love The neighbor who lives in a different world than you do.

Faith followers of Jesus are called to see ourselves as global souls in relationship with a planet, with peoples, forests and four leggeds who are our sisters and brothers by other fathers and mothers.

In some ways, the pandemic, now infecting well over 40 million and killing well over a million people, a fifth of the fatalities Americans, has brought our world closer together.

Our common dark fate has drawn us together!

To light candles for each other!

To show us a way!

Out of the messed up world—

In which we find ourselves mired —

All night and all day!

As the spiritual puts it:

“Angels watching over me, my Lord.”

All night and all day, we need angels

Watching over us, our Lord!

And We need to **be** angels

watching over a world

distressed by multiple stresses,

strains, social and global evils.

***We cope by kindling constant hope!***

As Maria Popova, the editor of *Brain Pickings* urges:

“Choose joy.”

Lay the weight of your joy over all your accumulated losses and sorrows.

As Mary the Mother of Jesus sang:

Magnify soul!

Remain blessed!

Concentrate your thoughts! Focus your energies on your inward journey!

What you are enabled to see from higher elevations!

The discovery that our depressed moods have a bottom and others are there too, to remind us that we are not alone.

Believe the evidence of your best and happiest hours!

Draw power from the experience of beauty!

Even in the smallest and briefest wonders of the natural world—there are joys from which you may choose.

I want to close with a very brief story which gives me hope and joy amidst this hard time.

Yesterday, two friends of mine—an interracial couple—women, invited a very small group of us, including their mighty, tiny terrier to gather outside the Nelson Atkins Art Museum, near one of the Shuttlecocks, to celebrate their wedding.

What a joy!

And a number of people wandering around the grounds stopped and remained still to take it in.

What beautiful, loving, devoted couple!

They have been together for a long time and yet it wasn't that long ago that they could not have received a license in the State of Missouri to marry.

Less than a year ago, one couldn't visit the other in a hospital room because they weren't "family".

Joy is around us if we keep looking.

Joy is within us if we stay focused.

Let's all Cope by Kindling Constant Hope! Amen.