

**‘Together we rejoice in the God who creates and cares, in the God who dwells among us, in the God who calls us into relationship, in the God who is with us, in the God who suffers with us, in the God who is love, in the God who walks with us now and forever.’**

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



Carolynne, Sr. Agnes and Mr. Mutua (Kenya)

**‘Every year, the Maasai Mara, known for its large population of lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants and millions of herbivores, host over 300,000 domestic and international tourists. No single tourist has visited the Mara in more than 60 days since the pandemic began. Therefore, the animals are at peace.’**

-Agnes Hunter rsm



**‘Covid-19 has highlighted systemic injustices, inequality, and marginalization but it has also drawn us, individually and collectively, into the presence of God.’**

-Amanda Carrier rsm

**‘Pour out your hearts like water before the presence of the Lord!’**

(Lam 2:19)



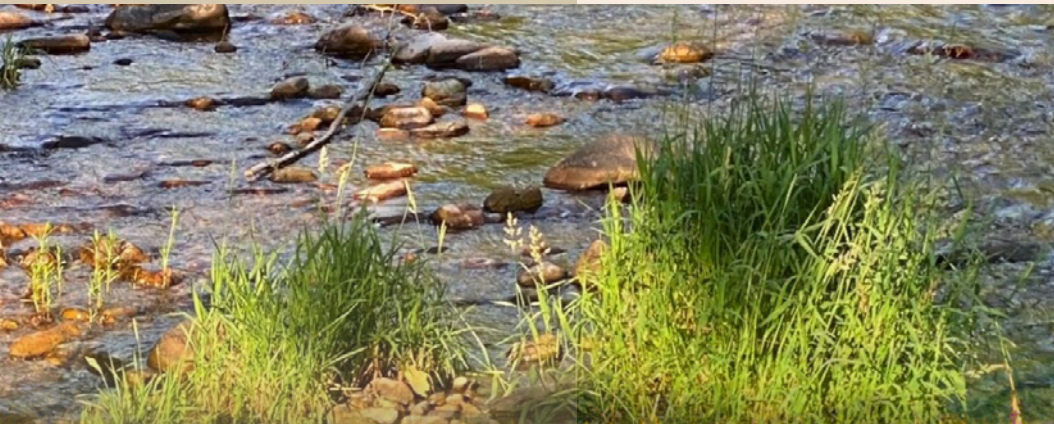
**‘A spiral represents God in this painting, to echo the spirals used by some of the first peoples of the world - the Maoris, the Indigenous peoples of Australia and some Native American tribes - to represent the Divine in their art.’**

-Marilyn Browne rsm



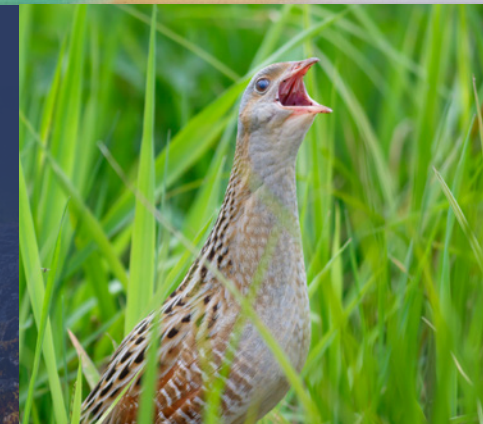
**‘Awareness of the presence of God fills Julian of Norwich with joy, desire, hope and love. Lord, we pray that, seeking wisdom from her we may make your presence in our daily lives more conscious and vibrant.’**

-Josephine Davies rsm and Cathy Edge rsm



**‘Opening to the grace of presence involves three stages: vulnerability, revelation, and resiliency.’**

-Mary-Paula Cancienne rsm



**‘We grew up in Ireland in an environment of Celtic Spirituality, in which God was not removed from the world and the lives of human beings, but was hallowed. God was all around – in the landscape of sea and mountain, bog and forest, in the rising and setting sun, in the comings and goings of the seasons.’**

-Maura Walsh rsm



# PRESENCE OF, TO AND WITH GOD







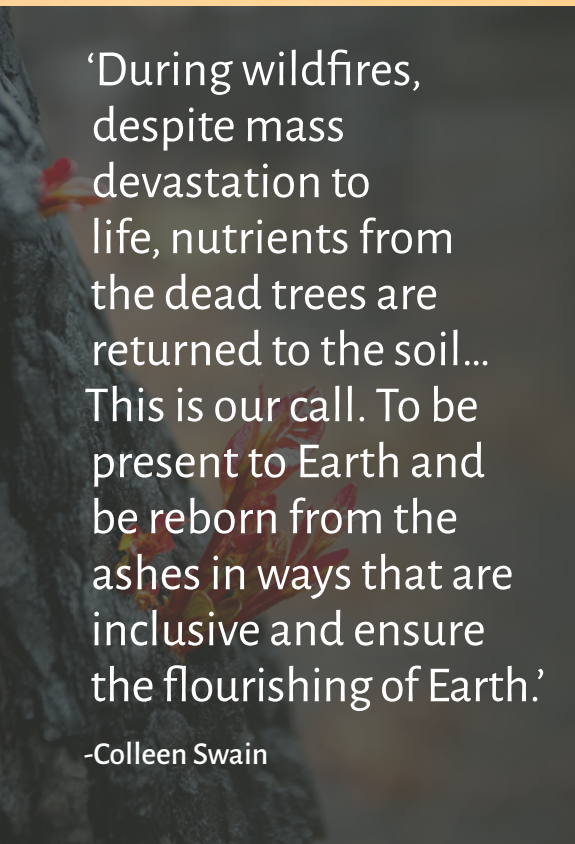
‘We are present in community, alongside other creatures, with whom we have more in common than what differentiates us, and from that stance we are present in community with the living and loving God and impelled to act ethically for the whole community.’

-Mary Tinney rsm



‘While there are many plights that can cause us unrest, one of the most common is the call to protect the earth.’

-Dominique Marendy



‘During wildfires, despite mass devastation to life, nutrients from the dead trees are returned to the soil... This is our call. To be present to Earth and be reborn from the ashes in ways that are inclusive and ensure the flourishing of Earth.’

-Colleen Swain



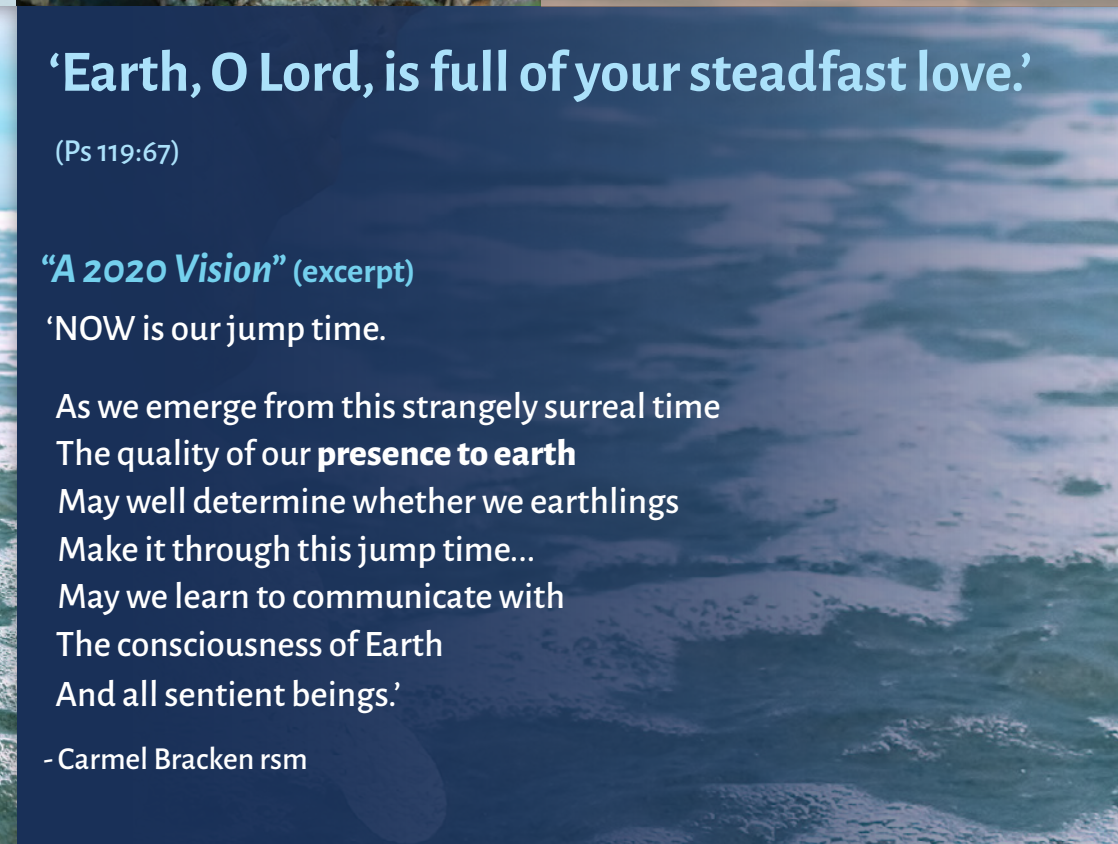
‘This is a wonderfully exciting time for a biologist, specifically a plant ecologist like me, who needs to be outside... Earth ‘creatures’ are re-awakening and new lives are emerging at an ever-increasing rate each day. Those of us who were trained to observe the world around us can't bear to be inside, away from our DNA kin.’

-Michael Gross



‘Hear the sound of the Conch Shell – a call for us to be still and attend to the Presence of Earth within and around us. Listen to the sound of your breath, The Earth is present. Look within us, The Earth is present. Listen to the sound of the sea, The Earth is present. Listen to the whispering sounds of the winds, The Earth is present. Listen to the birds singing, The Earth is present. Look...’

-Judith Moroney rsm, Paula Anamani rsm & Cheryl Connelly rsm



‘Earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love.’

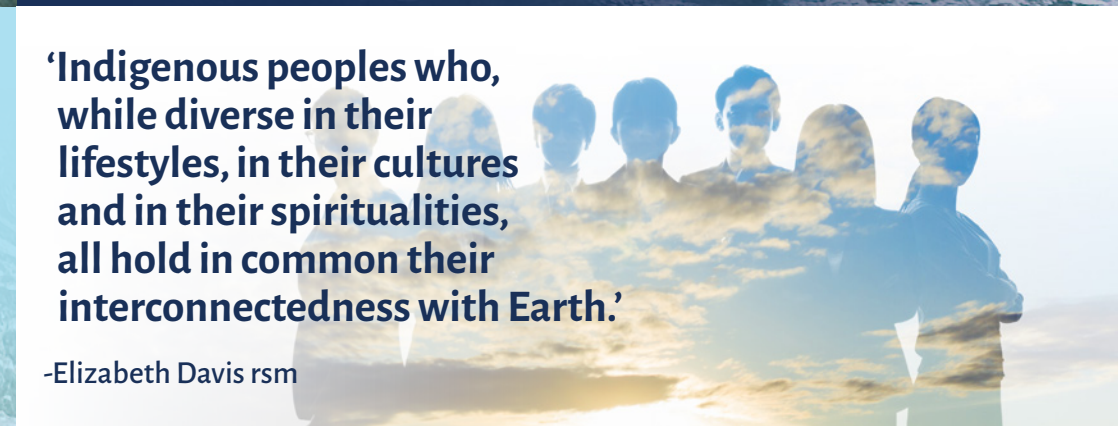
(Ps 119:67)

“A 2020 Vision” (excerpt)

‘NOW is our jump time.

As we emerge from this strangely surreal time  
The quality of our **presence to earth**  
May well determine whether we earthlings  
Make it through this jump time...  
May we learn to communicate with  
The consciousness of Earth  
And all sentient beings.’

-Carmel Bracken rsm



‘Indigenous peoples who, while diverse in their lifestyles, in their cultures and in their spiritualities, all hold in common their interconnectedness with Earth.’

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



# PRESENCE TO EARTH

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 2, Segment 3: Presence  
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**‘In our lives of service and in our relationships with one another, we are agents of God's merciful presence to one another... We pray for the grace of personal transformation through this crisis – may we use this time of lockdown and solitude to look at ourselves, review our attitudes and reassess our priorities.’**

-Michelle Goh rsm (frontline worker)

**‘Human beings must feel that they are sons and daughters of the rainbow, those who translate this divine covenant with all the beings existing and living, with new relationships of kindness, compassion, cosmic solidarity, and deep reverence for the mystery that each one bears and reveals.’**

-Leonardo Boff (*Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*)

**‘This year the pandemic is affecting every person, especially those living in poverty and sleeping on our streets. Believing that each of us is an image of God, we can say that Jesus continues to be homeless today in our towns and cities and we are faced with the question, “Can we pass them by and ignore their plight?”’**

-Marie O'Dea rsm



Artwork by Michael G Pacto rsm, Philippines

**‘Doing justice in ministry, loving kindness in community and walking humbly with God for both ministry and community, are a simple and vibrant expression of right relationships among humans and with their God.’**

-Elizabeth Davis rsm

**‘What does the Lord require of you, O mortal, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?’**

(Micah 6:8)

**‘A time to share the passion of Catherine to bring mercy to the needy; A time to embrace in our hearts those neglected, displaced, and experiencing uncertainty, anxiety and fears; A time to welcome the homeless, hungry and lowly; A time to hear the cry of the voiceless and those aiming to end violence and racism; A time to stand firm in the truth of the gospels, and a time to promote justice and peace; A time to renew our hearts A time to recognize and respect the sacredness of your creation A time to celebrate your mercy and love.’**

-Marian Ladrera rsm



**‘Hope in a Time of Pandemic: Responding to COVID-19 Through a Mercy Lens has revealed a “pandemic of kindness”, demonstrating the human capacity for transformation and calling forth great acts of resilience, kindness and creativity. In a world plagued by poverty, racism, sexism, xenophobia, and other forms of systemic marginalization, Mercy ministries exemplify a culture of encounter that emphasizes the dignity and rights of all people, and works to reduce social, economic and political inequalities.’**

-Cecilie Kern



Glasgow Homeless Jesus After Storm Ciara by Galina Walls.  
[www.galinawallsphotography.co.uk](http://www.galinawallsphotography.co.uk)



# PRESENCE IN COMMUNITY AND IN MINISTRY







'We know that Winter hides a promise of Spring beneath its coat. It takes faith, hope and courage in these days to listen to the inner voices and remain present as we prepare for a season of giving and receiving. We know, too, that COVID-19 roves our world irrespective of borders and life is fragile. Change arrives unannounced, and we search for a new way of unfolding to the mystery of life that surrounds us.'

- Patricia McMahon rsm



Presence to others may only be truly realised once our hearts are tuned inwards, listening and reflecting and acting on our inner voice, the ultimate act of presence to self. This is *the Mercy effect*.'

-Catherine Elliott

'**Tenth Station: Jesus' clothes are taken away** – Madeleine wakes up by the entrance door of the day centre. Her trolley, bags and all other belongings are gone. As staff arrived to open the centre for the day, she is screaming. Madeleine is my client. I assure her we have plenty of clothes; we can get her more clothes. But her children's photos are gone, her purse is gone. Her own belongings have been taken. A homeless woman's life has been stolen whilst she slept'

- Ali Roach rsm

'**You shall love your neighbour as yourself.**

(Matt 22:39)

'**Sometimes our presence alone is enough to bring peace and well-being to another.**

-Siobhán Golden



'Visitation' Therese Quinn rsj. Used with permission

'**Mercy characterizes the relationship between self and the other. Mercy is the face of God between self and the other. Mercy is inclusive of everyone in need. Mercy presence relates or bridges self with the other whom God sends to us to be our neighbor.**

- Carmela Cabactulan rsm

'**To listen another's being into life, may almost be the greatest service that any human being ever performs for another.**

(Douglas Steere)

'Based on the invitation of Pope Francis to care for our Common Home and to act as the protectors of our Mother Earth, I am currently supporting young people in the Highlands area of the Province of Chiriquí in my country (Panama), for an integral formation process where they can really get closer to embracing their identity as an indigenous population and dignify their own culture so that they can become aware and participate in processes as rightful citizens of this country.'

-Edia "Tita" Lopez rsm, Panama



'**Our charity is to be cordial. Now cordial signifies something that renews, invigorates, and warms. Such should be the effect of our love for each other.**

(Catherine McAuley)

'**The image of Mary and Elizabeth meeting in a deeply prophetic moment is a moving expression of presence to one another in all its depths and richness.**

-Elizabeth Davis rsm



# PRESENCE TO SELF AND OTHERS

Voices, Quotes and Images from Theme 4, Segment 3: Presence  
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