

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity ~ Psalm 133:1

After the gloom of night with all its weeping there was a notion awakened in us that perhaps prioritizing the needs of others could be liberating, cathartic, human. We put our bruises aside and became wounded healers. We learned that more detrimental than the shortage of water, or food, or resources was the shortage of empathy. So, we chose to move beyond the limits of our own experiences to walk in someone else's shoes. We took our cue from countless ancient stars that sacrificially imploded, burned themselves out eons ago so that future generations could inherit their shimmering light. We stopped binge watching shows on Netflix, logged off Facebook, put down our habit-forming phones and sought face-to-face human interaction. Overwhelmed with reports of hurricanes, NFL protests, North Korean missiles, mass incarceration, police brutality, and the confederacy of ghosts haunting the White House we came to identify with the global struggle but we walked next door to comfort our neighbors. We grieved with the widow down the street, mentored her fatherless children.

We plant bountiful gardens in food deserts. We shout when others are silent. The don't show us on the news but we are here. We don't have time to curse the darkness, we are too busy lighting candles. We are lovers not fighters but we fight for what we love. We burnout but we refuel, with blistered hands we improvise tools. We grow weary but we do not faint. We hone our skills, we go hard in the paint. We shake off haters like so much dust. We value humanity. We rebuild trust. We remain peaceful in the midst of frustration. We practice the ministry of reconciliation. We stand in the gap when others have gone. We let the suffering know they are not alone. With the wind in our face we keep moving forward. We don't run from danger we charge towards it. We find a way even when we are broke. We stay turned up. We stay woke! We sacrifice self to help others survive. We don't just exist, we gloriously thrive. We straightened our backs when others caved in. We stopped waiting for heroes and became them.

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