

Devotional from Fran Alloway

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:31 - *"but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

DEVOTIONAL

We have a bird feeder outside our kitchen window. Recently, I found a bag of bird seed that needed to be used before the mice found it, so I and filled the feeder.

Being home, I have had more time to watch the birds. We have tall trees behind our house so the birds swoop in for a few seconds on the bird feeder perch and then back to the trees. And then another few birds show up. My grandchildren were here a few weeks ago and we had fun learning the names of the birds and sorting the mommies from the daddies.

It is easy to feel fear at this time. Each small cough makes me wonder if I will be one of the fast growing corona virus statistics. While I think that I am healthy, will I be one of the unlucky ones on a respirator? Should I go to the grocery store or order groceries online and stay away from others? Are my family members OK? What about my job? All of these are valid concerns.

The birds remind me that while human issues create fear, God's world is blooming, chirping, and announcing spring in a loud way. We are in the Lenten season of sacrifice now - but our Easter Christ is coming.

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Keep our hopes in You as we share our fears in this time of quarantine. Give strength and knowledge to our leaders that they make the right decisions to guide our country and the world through this pandemic. Protect our health care workers and those doing essential jobs that provide us the services to keep going. Support our parents and families that are trying to work at home while home schooling their children. Remind our folks in isolation that You are always with them. This is a time for all of us to reach out to end relational poverty. Keep those who are feeling anxious about food, money, social issues, family health, and other issues in your hands. We all need you at this time to soar, run, and walk and not be faint.