

## A Prayer of Gratitude in Times Like These

Most gracious and merciful God,  
amidst the din of howling winds  
above the noise of rampaging waves  
atop the earthquakes and the shaking of the earth  
we hear your voice: "Be still and know that I am God."

Yes, even in times when we are prone not to be still,  
at moments when we are sorely tempted to resort to flight,  
we hear you and we pause to listen and to reflect, to stand still  
and recognize that indeed you are the God who is with us,  
that it is not in the wind or waves nor in the earth's tremors that you speak  
and that even when we walk through the shadow of the valley of death, that we are not alone  
that even when we are put in the crucible of a fiery furnace,  
that you are there to save.

In times like these, you speak to reassure us  
through that still small voice  
through the concrete acts of solidarity of partners and friends  
through those who lovingly stretched out their helping hand  
to those ravaged by the storm  
to those who are desolate and in despair  
to those who are left with a threadbare of hope.

In times like these you assure us that we are not alone;  
that we have sisters and brothers who are moved to walk the lonesome valley with us.  
We thank you, for in times like these, your love and care is made more manifest and incarnate,  
made alive in concrete deeds of lovingkindness and compassion.

To you we return all glory and praise. In Jesus name. Amen.

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