

Bruce Vantine's  
**CORNERSTONE  
CHORALE AND BRASS**

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*After the wind, earthquake, floods and fire...*

*Called to listen...*

Like a river rushing toward swirling rapids, *life* pulls us downstream at an ever more furious pace.

This whitewater channel of *time*, can sometimes hurl us against the boulders and broken branches of personal difficulties and human tragedies resulting from poverty, illness, climate change, war, race hatred, injustice and corruption.



The constant churning and driving pace along with the noise of 21st century day to day life can leave us feeling frustrated, weary, overwhelmed, numb and unable to find peace at the center of our being.

The prophet Elijah, feeling lost in his own perceived personal failure, called out to God as he sat under the broom tree:

*"It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life."*

*And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks,...but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was*

*not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

-1 Kings 19:4, 11-12

It was *not* through the prevailing noise of the world that Elijah experienced God. It was in the *silence* from which emerged the *still small voice* and the inspiration to get up and to move forward with God's plan and with God's help.

*Called to care...*

"Christ Jesus...took on the suffering of others." We, too, are called to follow "in Jesus' steps" which leads us "to people suffering hunger and homelessness, illness and injustice, exclusion and emptiness...[and calling] us to pick up the burdens and suffering of others. We suffer with and for them. *It costs. It gives life.*"

-The Rev. George Carlson,  
"Christ in Our Home,"  
Aug. 2021

So often we find ourselves "gazing skyward waiting for *God*,...never realizing that God is waiting for us.... But once we realize that we are truly created in the Creator's image, we will start to understand that we, *too*, must be 'Creators.' When we learn to understand this fact, the doors will burst wide open for human potential."

-Dan Brown, "The Lost Symbol"

*Called to act...*

Sometimes I hear comments that people of faith have become complacent, but could it be that in our own lives and in our churches we have become weary and numb -- like Elijah?

Facing concerns over membership or financial pressures, do we find ourselves "waiting for God" instead of *doing* for God – *being* 'creators' in service to others and not *only* focusing on our church physical plant or budget?

Not all of us feel we are in a position to lead a movement or cause huge change, but we may be in a position to make a difference in our own circle of neighbors, friends and family – and even beyond that circle.

It is worth remembering "that should all else crumble, memories of gestures made, thoughtfulness considered, and seeds of inspiration planted, might outlast all."

- Denise Kiernan, "The Last Castle,"

Step away from the noise of our chaotic world.

After the wind, earthquake and fire, *there is* "a still small voice."

Listen to it. Maybe it will tell us more about who we really are, or better yet, who we can be.



Bruce Vantine  
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*Cornerstone's 20th Tour – October 2022*