

Crying with You from Pastor Karyn
October 6, 2020

The last seven months have been tough on everyone. There have been so many losses and so much hardship. At times it has felt like a roller coaster of emotions and reactions to all that has happened. Some moments have been harder than others. Last week I did a funeral for the Ranieri Family for their son, Andrew. Many of you may remember them. It was a tough day. He was only 40 years of age at the time of his death. Deaths are all hard, but a parent burying their child is tough.

On Thursday, Christy Teigen and John Legend, celebrity singer and model, shared that they had lost their son during a difficult pregnancy. Seeing the beautiful and moving photos of their grief made me cry. Pregnancy losses are so hard on all of the family.

A chimneysweep and his wife of 63 years, Bill and Mary Dartnell, died within hours of each other in England. A family in India, the Singh family, lost 9 members of their family to COVID19 within 3 weeks.

On Friday we learned that President Trump and Mrs. Trump have tested positive. We prayed for them on Sunday and will continue to do so. They along with 7.35 million Americans have tested positive. The news is always tough to hear. We pray for each and every person dealing with this diagnosis and those mourning deaths from this virus.

We stand at a moment when almost 210,000 Americans have died of COVID19. Around the globe there have been over 1.3 million deaths. US COVID19 deaths are 20% of that world total. Each and every loss is personal to someone. Many of these deaths were folks dying without family present since they were under isolation protocols.

These numbers represent parents and children, spouses and siblings, friends and family, and young and old from around the globe. Every one of these persons had a history, a story, and a web of relationships. Watching a global wave of grief for 7+ months has been heartbreaking.

Some of you have lost friends or family. Some of you have tested positive and recovered or were tested to be safe after a possible exposure. Some of you have taken care of those who are sick with the virus. Some of you have been severely isolated due to your or your family's health vulnerabilities. We have first responders, health care workers, and care givers in our community of faith. This virus has touched all of us.

The global impact of this virus has changed the world as we know it. It has changed the ways we shop, teach, learn, visit, and have church. It has also changed the ways we grieve and mourn. It has changed how we hold funerals and life celebrations. But

one thing has remained the same in my mind, God is present in the midst of all of this. God cries with us when we mourn. God is with us in the silence, the isolation, and the grief we experience.

As I hear your stories and the stories of those who we have lost, I know grief is hard and I cry with you, too. I know being apart is rough. Despite all we have endured and survived this year, we are still here. We're still standing strong. Your support, love, and prayers are keeping all of us moving forward. Thanks be to God for all of you. And thanks be for a God who holds us when we grieve, loves us when we falter, and stays by our side through the good times and the bad.

Grace and Peace –

PK