



*Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.*

William Butler Yeats, *The Second Coming*

## *Dear Friends,*

I wake in the night and pray for you and for all of us on this tiny planet, placed like a blue marble in the vast swells of space. I listen through the clamor and clash of power and greed for the voice of my Falconer. Wheeling through the skies, will we find the steady center, an outreached arm, a safe place for us to land? Will we come to rest where nourishing food awaits? 2017 has been a challenging year for many of us. I have listened to your struggles to manage your fear and outrage. I have seen your grief over many national and world events. You have shared your heartbreak and fear over the rise of racism in our country. Some of you have told your #metoo stories of abuse and harassment. I saw your sorrow over the consequences of global warming, continuing outbreaks of violence, mass killings, fires consuming whole towns in California, and the devastation of hurricane winds and floods.

In the last year some of you have traveled to Africa, South America, Greece and beyond to help refugees and survivors of famine. Some of you cleaned up flooded homes and built wells. Maybe you walked the halls of congress and state governments. Others gathered to address pressing issues of need in your communities.

I have watched you struggle in your churches and faith communities to find unity and a way forward with limited financial resources. I saw some of you work to free yourselves from negative thought patterns and attitudes. You opened your eyes, took a risk on faith, and were captured by hope.

Yes church membership is declining in many places. Church has become irrelevant to more people than ever in the US. You may have cringed at the misrepresentation of Christ passed off in some places as Christianity. Yet, I have seen faith deepen and conviction grow strong. I have seen resolution and courage replace fear and anxiety.

*Surely some revelation is at hand;  
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.*

W.B. Yeats



At The Sanctuary we continue to pray, teach, guide, and listen. I watch the growth and flowering of souls deeply rooted in Christ, freed by the

Spirit to live authentically and prophetically. A loyal group gathers for our Friday morning Pause for Peace, where the presence of the Spirit is so palpable following our silence, that one person arriving after the group had left, asked, “Wow – what is going on in here? I can feel the presence and power.”

“As co-creators in the ongoing evolution of life and spirit, the future of the cosmos depends on the choices that we make, the effort we exert, and the work that we do,” writes physicist and author, Kathleen Duffy, SSJ. Though I feel my age more often these days, I am committed to helping people in their ongoing transformation in Christ. Your support of prayers and gifts to The Sanctuary Fund makes spiritual deepening possible. Please pray for us and make a gift from your heart to the heart of God and to the hearts of all of those searching for the center, where the Falconer stands, ever loving, and ever reaching out to us.

With eager expectation and faith in the future that Christ is bringing into the world,

Loretta F. Ross



*The Great Work consists of providing impetus for the transformation to greater consciousness, promoting the cultural transition through which we, as a species, are slowly moving, fostering the next major phase transition in human history. It calls us to assess our impact, to take responsibility for our actions, and to forward the cosmic project in the direction of spirit.... The Great Work requires a great degree of maturity and development. A “flame of expectation” for the awakening of full human potential needs to burn. Without faith in the future, we will not have the motivation and the energy to overcome obstacles to unity.*

Kathleen Duffy, Teilhard’s Mysticism – Seeing the Inner Face of Evolution, pp 106-107

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