

Good Friday - March 29

*Nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.
Luke 17:21*

In May 2022, my Mom died in hospice suddenly after a three-day whirlwind. I was utterly unprepared for her death. But God came down from heaven, and today, I see the holy spirit breaking through on earth.

Of course, none of us are prepared for a loved one's death, and in the middle of a whirlwind crisis, I wasn't thinking about God. But to illustrate my mindset, two weeks prior, my cat was terminally sick, and I went to the vet to put her down. Instead of being with her, comforting her as she was put down, I chose to drop her off and sit in the lobby. Why? I didn't want to see death. I loved that cat.

When my Mom was admitted to Hospice, I now found myself faced with her imminent death. She only had days to live. Seeing death was being forced upon me. I couldn't sit in the lobby. That's not what daughters do.

I was there. I was scared, but present. I was brave and said, I love you when my Mom took her last breath.

Today, two years afterward, the irony is my Mom was a retired hospice nurse. Amongst her belongings is a poem she wrote. She said it is a gift to be in a home when someone is dying, to witness the sacred moment. I understand now that death is not seen - but a blessing to witness - the soul's passage when heaven breaks through on earth.

Patricia Arnold

Prayer: God, help us to be aware of Your presence in our days - during good, bad, extraordinary and ordinary times. May we seek you out and find peace in knowing, and believing, You are with us always. Amen.