



DIAKONIA Prayer Letter

This September we will pray for the whole world and for all the people living here.

We are tired now. Tired of constantly thinking distance, of nodding our heads instead of shaking hands, of wearing face masks, of having to hand-spray ourselves incessantly. We are tired of not meeting people, to drink the cup of coffee alone. We are tired and sadden to see people around us becoming sick and even die, for people losing their jobs. Our tiredness is not so much in the body perhaps, but in the head, and the mind. For half a year, the most pessimistic thought this would last. Now one and a half year have passed.

On my table is a ceramic tile, it says: *Faith is the bird that knows the dawn and therefore sings while it is still night.* A word of wisdom that I believe comes from the Jewish tradition. I have read it often lately. It helps with discouragement: it's going to be different, even if it does not feel that way now. In the most important day of our faith, Easter morning, it was just in the early dawn that the women came to the tomb and found it empty. Jesus that they thought was dead had risen. We do not know tomorrow and what it brings. But we do believe that no matter what happens, the risen Lord is always with us.

Lord we pray

- For our planet and for all people living here
- For those who are ill with covid-19
- For all the families that are affected

BLESSING THE EARTH

Blessing the earth
our beautiful blue planet
our home, in the cosmos

Blessing all good will
all actions
in sincerity and love

Blessing the light in our hearts
May it grow strongly
embrace the darkness
give birth to peace and reconciliation

Margareta Melin

Rev Marianne Uri Øverland, Norway, President Region Africa/Europe