

Community Conversation Sharing: A Poem

**A Story of COVID-19**

Days blur into weeks, blur into months

How long since I have seen my grandmother's face?

And how much longer must I wait?

Will my loved ones gather together, or remain distant, longing for the warmth of a hug, the sound of communal laughter, a shared meal...

The world is scared, I am scared.

Lord, protect us all. Heal us. Our country is divided and hurting.

Guide us in living out of our common humanity rather than our isolated individualism.

When one hurts, we all hurt.

What will it take for us to take this to heart?

Let me be a light in chaos and difficulty. Let me persevere in my caution, my patience, my compassion and understanding.

Let us share small signs of love with neighbors and friends.

Let us remember and honor those 400,000 lost amidst this terrible pandemic

Bind us together in love and grant us patience.

Fill us with hope that friendship, the opposite of this lonely isolation, will be ours once again.

Amen