

Good day and welcome to all near and far, especially those of you who are joining us for the 1<sup>st</sup> time! We delight in spending this time with you to break open the Word of God and to continue to weave a web of communion throughout the world. Our coming together in this virtual format is indeed an expression of the noosphere described by Teilhard. We aren't just isolated boxes on a screen disconnected from one another. We are enmeshed in a cosmic radiance of Love where the inter-Christic space between us is drawing us into ever greater union with God, one another, and all Creation. I invite you to take a moment and consciously lean into this space where we are being held together in the Divine Embrace. Notice how God dwells between and among us across space and time and opens to us an unencumbered universe of healing, wholeness, transformation, and profound belonging.

Over the past 48-hours those of us in the States, and perhaps those of you abroad, have watched in disbelief the shock and sorrow of those who have lost relatives and friends in the devastating partial collapse of a 12-story residential building in Miami, Florida in the middle of the night. We've seen the anguish of those who are still waiting to hear if their loved ones have been found. And we heard the remarkable story of a man who heard the cry of a 10-year-old boy who was able to stretch out his hand through the rubble and be pulled to safety. Unfortunately, his mother didn't survive.

Last night a woman being interviewed poignantly said, "My faith is keeping me hopeful, without that it's pretty bleak."

Let us embrace those whose lives have been forever changed by this tragedy as we pray:

Jesus, as we press in upon you this day, come lay your hands on whatever within us and in our world needs healing, give us the courage to reach out and touch you, help us to have faith especially in difficult times, and attune our ears to the sound of your voice calling us to the fullness of life in God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.