

*Rev. Christine Meyer, retired parish pastor and chaplain*

*What are your initial thoughts on this conversation? What surprised you? What was most memorable to you?*

- *Chris opens her own devotions with music from the Taize community. What practices do you use when you make time for God?*
- *Chris discusses how she understands her ministry after the major life change of retirement. How have major changes in your life impacted the ways you tend to your ministry - the ways God has invited you to carry out God's work in the world?*
- *Chris asks, "Have we ever been tested like this before?" In what ways have you felt tested lately that are new to you? Do you see any parallels between how you have been tested lately and other experiences in your life?*
- *Chris talks about the way each of us is navigating our own "little wildernesses." What are the little wildernesses you find are testing your faithfulness?*
- *"The biggest challenge, of course, as it is for everybody, is that we're separated." In what ways have you experienced separation or isolation in different or more profound way over the past year?*
- *Chris describes wilderness as "absolute vulnerability, when you realize your ultimate vulnerability and that you can't do anything about it." In what ways have you been confronted with vulnerability lately? How do you address that feeling of vulnerability?*
- *"I never liked wilderness primarily as testing...The exodus...was a time of learning where your dependency lies, who I am dependent on and how do I require God's presence in my life?" How easy or difficult is it for you to name the ways you are dependent on God? How do you require God's presence in your life?*
- *Chris talks about the wilderness as a place of listening: "You go to a place that's uncomplicated by voices that are all around you, that's an opportunity." What voices do you need to fall silent so you can listen to God? How can you help find that quiet?*
- *"God does direct and guide us when we ask for it." When have you asked God to direct you? How do you sense God's direction and guidance?*
- *Chris asks, "What am I confused about? What is it that's making my life so difficult right now? What is complicating things?" How would you answer these questions?*
- *Chris says she prays, "I feel like I need a change but I don't know what it is. I need you to tell me. I'm going to wait for you to tell me." How do you wait for God? While you're waiting for God, in what ways do you listen for God?*
- *Chris describes her current path by saying, "Right now I feel like I'm at a stopping place. I don't need to be pushing ahead somewhere. I'm waiting for what around me changes so I can adapt to those changes." Where have been the "stopping places" in your life?*
- *Chris notes that the pandemic "has caused people to think more deeply about their relationship to each other and their relationship to the transcendent. I think we're going to have an absolute renewal...if we wait for the voice of the Lord to speak to us." What is your greatest hope for renewal in your life? What is your greatest hope for the renewal of the church? What practices help you "wait for the Lord to speak"?*

