

As I begin my journey into 2021 with covid-19 threatening to worsen, it's reassuring to look back at how God has led me through fearful times throughout my life.

During Confirmation Class, our pastor recommended that we memorize the hymn, *Jesus Still Lead On* to help us put our trust in God in challenging times. Over the years when I felt anxious, this line often came to mind: "let not faithless fears o'ertake us". Then I felt God working through others to help me.

1 Jesus, still lead on till our rest be won.
And, although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless;
guide us by Your hand to our Fatherland.

2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
let not faithless fears o'ertake us,
let not faith and hope forsake us;
for, through many a woe, to our home we go.

3 When we seek relief from a long-felt grief--
when oppressed by new temptations,
Lord, increase and perfect patience.
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

4 Jesus, still lead on till our rest be won;
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand in our Fatherland.

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Copied from hymnary.org

Recently I was able to enjoy a beautiful hike on the Bruce Trail, near Skinner's Bluff because of the efforts of my granddaughters, and countless people throughout the years who have made hiking the Bruce Trail possible, even in the winter. When my granddaughters invited me, I relished the idea of getting out and enjoying a beautiful walk, but I was afraid to take the risk at my age. "Oh come along Gramma, we'll take good care of you." They reminded me to bring ski poles for walking sticks. We were all very concerned to adhere to covid restrictions, so we agreed to drive separately and meet up the next day.

Of course we walked in single file at least 6 feet behind each other: Jocelyn, Evangeline, myself, and Eileen (my daughter). Jocelyn led the way following the white paint markings on the trees, through the beautiful winter wonderland. She chose to lead because she had hiked this 2 1/2 km. trail last summer. Whenever she encountered snow-covered rocks or crevices she paused and made sure that Evangeline signalled to me that I was approaching a hazard, and their mother walked behind me, making sure I passed the obstacles safely.

We were very blessed to be able to enjoy beautiful scenes and the quiet stillness of God's handiwork. We were taking care of our physical and mental health while maintaining our civic duties to stay physically distant. If I had let my faithless fears o'ertake me, I would have missed a wonderful experience.

Now as fears around covid continue to worsen, it calms my fears to remember that God is faithful. He has promised to be with us always. He gave us talents to use to help each other. God will lead all of us through this fearful time, and bring us home.

Glory to God whose power working in us can accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:24).