

This Far by Faith

A Prayer for Retirement

Mary Luti

2 Peter says a thousand years
are like a day for you, a finger snap.
It's beginning to feel like that to me, too.

Here I am, God, a catch in my throat,
beholding them pass:
thousand-year-days of work and wonder,
reward and frustration, responsibility and care,
a life aimed at something, nest-building,
career-building, purpose and plans,
the person I became.

Now what?
Now that that part's done?
What will I care for now?
What do I want?
How will I know?
What will I relinquish?
What will I shoulder?
Who will I become?
In what new ways will I matter?
In what new ways will I still be yours?

I have ideas.
I have no idea.
I have plans.
Maybe they'll work.
I have hopes.
May they all come true.

People tell me what to expect.
What I should be doing.

What I shouldn't be doing.
How much I should have stashed away.
They all say different things.
I take it all in.
Sometimes it feels light and liberating,
so many possibilities!
Sometimes my heart pounds in the wee hours,
scared to death.

I know only this for sure
(please let it be enough, and everything):
whatever this stage of life brings,
you can be found in it.
I came this far by faith.
You brought me.
Your hand led me.
You won't leave me now.
Help my faith. Help me trust:
all that lies ahead—the good, the hard,
the sorrowful and glad—is in your hands.

And that nothing,
not work or rest, not change or challenge,
not retirement or repurposing,
not downsizing, benefits, or taxes,
not health or illness, not life or death—
can distance me from you,
can separate me from your love,
will snatch me from your hands.

I am so grateful.
Thanks.



The Rev. Mary Luti is a long-time seminary educator and pastor, author of *Teresa of Avila's Way* and numerous articles, and founding member of *The Daughters of Abraham*, a national network of interfaith women's book groups.