

# A prayer for the people of Nepal

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*After the earthquake...a sound of sheer silence and a Voice said:  
'what are you doing here?' I Kings 19:12-13*

**Holy One, whose desire for all peoples is wholeness, life abundant, and peace:  
Hear us as we pray in sorrow for lives lost and communities shattered by  
earthquakes and aftershocks in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh.**

**As your servant Elijah fled for his life into the wilderness and found bread for the  
journey, may survivors of this disaster find in the outpouring of their neighbors' care,  
shelter, sustenance, and companionship in the midst of horrors.**

**In the sheer silence that follows  
When the cries for help are stilled  
And the cameras and the news cycle have moved on to another tragedy,  
May we not turn away; but hear in the midst of quiet  
    Your still, small voice  
    calling us to bear witness  
    calling us to remember  
    calling us to bring ourselves to a ministry of prayerful presence  
    and potent generosity.**

**Let us have an answer when Your Voice inquires, "what are you doing here, Elijah?"  
Let us answer with our prayers,  
Let us answer with generous gifts,  
Let us join together, an international community of healing,  
To rebuild, to restore, and in time, to rejoice,  
That in a world that suffers, Light still shines,  
And darkness and dust shall not overcome it.  
In the name of the Human One we pray. Amen.**

**The Rev. Dr. Laurie A Kraus,  
Coordinator, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
April 2015**

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