

Title: The Pandemic Impact on Working Mothers

Scripture: **Romans 8:12-25**

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, *in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

News: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/02/insider/virus-working-moms.html>

Commentary: This week's reading in Romans left me sitting with the line, "...hope that creation itself will be set free from the bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." I was thinking about all of the systems and cultural norms that are being disrupted due to the pandemic. Many people are talking about the grief and loss associated with these disruptions, but I wonder, as a people who believe in a creative God, how the decay of these systems might give way to new life. I thought we could view that through the lens of working mothers for this week's discussion. The article provided is a commentary by two authors who wrote an earlier piece on the subject that is also linked at the top of the one you have here if you'd like more reading.