

**HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 7/12/2024**  
**Diane Butler Bass - Who Knows What Will Happen**

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

Diana Butler Bass has a Ph.D., is an award-winning author, popular speaker, and one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality. Her passion is sharing ideas to change lives and the world—a passion that ranges from informing the public about spiritual trends, challenging conventional narratives about religious practice, using social media to challenge spiritual wisdom and traditional theology, and writing books to help readers see themselves, their place in history, and GOD differently. Recently, I read the following writing from her and found it quite profound.

“Who knows what should or will happen?

Instead, I woke up thinking about these lines from Teilhard de Chardin:

Above all, trust in the slow work of GOD.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress

that it is made by passing through some stages of instability —

and that it may take a very long time.

Yes, there is democratic urgency.

Life is short. Ask the toads.

But the project of earth-making is long. Ask the mountains.

We humans live in the middle, muddling along.

Although, to be honest, we're more like the toads than the rocks. I'm thinking that toads don't do well with politics.

We can do better. We must do better. But better won't arise with internet croaking.

Quick takes do not a democracy make.

What if we re-embrace the idea that democracy is a communal project? Together, we are writing a long story of justice, liberty, and equality. Each chapter in the story matters, but the whole isn't written in a single event, by a single leader, or in a single election.

We're writing democracy every day. All of us. That's the thing about democracy. If done well, unlike toad brevity, it might be generative over the long run. Not for a month or year or an administration. But for decades, for centuries. Maybe more. I hope more.

Can we trust the slow work that GOD has put in our hands? Can we trust one another as we make our way through the middle chapters? Can wise patience guide this project? Can we think of this moment as a plot twist as we wend toward a more rewarding next chapter?

The desert raises far more questions than it answers. That is as it always has been.

The meditation gong just sounded.

Breathe. Don't just listen for alarm bells, but hear the resonant chime calling to a deeper, longer wisdom."

In CHRIST's love,  
Pastor Jeffrey