

Grace for the Moment

Jan 2, 2020

Ten cousins in their seventies gather for lunch.
Half know they are incurably ill.
Half only that their certain end is near.
They begin to share their stories.

“At our age, gratitude is not a virtue,
It’s a survival skill!”
“Mature hope doesn’t have specific expectations!
It’s open but trusts ultimate goodness.”

She: “Twenty years ago, the doctors told me
‘The good news: you won’t die.
The bad news: you’ll live at 10%!’
I couldn’t have made it without God’s grace!”

Impulsively, I ask her “May I play you a song?”
“Yes.” From my iPhone on the dining table,
Accompanied only by guitar,
The clean soprano voice begins.

We listen in silence.
Across the table, she clasps
The dying cousins’ hand.
As they weep, tears come to all our eyes.

“Grace for the moment, all that I need
Grace for the moment and faith to receive
All the promises given to those who believe
Grace for the moment, all that I need.ⁱ”

ⁱ Chorus of “Grace for the Moment,” written and sung by Tricia Walker.