

Chaplaincy Update, Spring 2019

By Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder

She came here for a new life, a patient told me.
Grew up with an abusive stepdad, escaped into an abusive marriage.
Now her children were grown and raised.
So she escaped and began a new life, her life.
Then her chronic pain went off the charts
From the clinic they sent her straight to the hospital.
We talked, cried, prayed, listened for God together.
When I stood up to leave, she offered me a blessing, she said that she always had told her children about the pain in the world - terrible deep pain. And when we meet someone who is suffering from this pain, we need to stay with them and listen. But when we get up to go, it's important not to carry their pain with us.
So, she said, I am grateful for the opportunity for us to talk and pray, but please leave my pain here, don't carry it with you.
I promised her that I wouldn't, and we agreed that we had given her pain to God to transform into her new life.

We have some great videos that tell more stories of the chaplaincy ministry at LAC+USC - you can check them all out on the synod website <https://www.synod.org/chaplaincy/>, or link directly one at a time:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYF6M0U4RIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qS4v1w7ApGc&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6005s6k8sDg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwjPIJMSius>

Thanks to all of the faithful knitters, crocheters, quilters and sew-ers! If you are inspired to create a hand made blanket for patients at LAC+USC we would love it! Blankets need to be 36" x 36"/48"

– Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder serves as Presbyterian staff chaplain at LAC+USC Medical Center. The Presbyterian Chaplaincy is made possible through the Consortium funded by the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, the Presbyteries of the Los Ranchos, Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel.

To find out more about this ministry and how you can be involved, please contact her at Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com.