

DETAILS

All Will Be Well Learning to Trust God's Love

October 4, 2022 | \$18, 32 pages, hardcover | 978-1-5140-0248-3

All Will Be Well tells the story of a young girl, Julian, whose beloved grandmother is dying. Julian's interaction with her grandmother is an opportunity to learn more about Julian of Norwich and her teachings: that we can trust God with all things because he loves us.

God's Love Experienced Through Nature

The loss of a grandparent is a common experience for young children. It is often their first encounter with grief. Children are not protected from the pain of loss and death and the existential questions that begin to surface in the face of suffering. Children need a theology that is generous and gentle enough to hold their questions, and Julian of Norwich provides just that. Julian of Norwich's picture of God's loving care comes from her own experience of God during times of great suffering. That picture came in the form of a hazelnut where she said that if something as small as a hazelnut was loved by God, then we must be loved by God too.

- Picture book for kids ages four through eight
- Illustrations created by Rebecca Evans, who has worked on more than twenty-four children's books
- Author note at the end of the book encourages further discussion about grief between caregiver and child

"Mima, I don't want you to die," said Julian.

Mima's eyes opened.

"Does God still love us when we die?" asked Mima.

"Yes, God loves us forever," answered Julian.

"Then, when you don't see me anymore, I will be where God is," said Mima, "because God loves you and God loves me. 'All will be well, all will be well, everything will be well.""

"Julian of Norwich said that!" declared Julian, and Mima was glad she remembered.

-Adapted from All Will Be Well



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Q & A

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Lacy Finn Borgo teaches and provides spiritual direction with adults and children through Renovaré, Mercy Center Burlingame, and the Companioning Center. She especially loves meeting with children at Haven House, a transitional facility for families without homes. Lacy lives on the Western Slope of the Rocky Mountains with her people family, four dogs, four cats, two goats, one horse, and assorted chickens. You can learn more about Lacy at gooddirtministries.org.

God Is with Children in Their Suffering

What inspired you to write All Will Be Well?

Lacy Finn Borgo: Children are not protected from the pain of loss and death and the existential questions that begin to surface in the face of suffering. Children need a theology that is generous and gentle enough to hold their questions, and Julian of Norwich, thought to be the first woman to write a book in English, provides just that. Julian of Norwich's picture of God's loving care comes from her own experience of God during times of great suffering. Children can find faithful companions for their life with God in nature and Julian of Norwich.

How does this book remind children that God is with them in their suffering?

Lacy: Julian's beloved Mima is sick and dying. Mima is a beacon of unconditional love and acceptance as Julian struggles to manage her strong feelings. God's lovingly playful presence comes to Julian through a hazelnut tree during her walks home from school. Through nature, God makes a space for her questions and reminds her of her namesake, Julian of Norwich. The wind and trees whisper that all will be well.

What do you hope children and adults alike will take away from All Will Be Well?

Lacy: Children are having experiences with God in the lives that they are living at this moment. They do experience suffering and loss, but God is with children in their suffering. He partners with nature to remind them of his presence and that whatever comes from love will last.

What role do you see picture books playing in the spiritual formation of a family?

Lacy: Picture books have the incredible potentional to reach both adults and children. Generally, picture books are read by adults to children. The opportunity for formation of the whole family is exponential. The close bodily proximity due to shared reading and looking at the pictures creates an intimate and connected space, engaging all the dimensions of the self, poised to nurture deep conversations. Well-loved pictures books are read over and over by children, through adolescence and into adulthood, inviting deeper truths to be savored.



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