



In light of physical distancing to help reduce the spread of COVID-19, Mercy Connections Participant, Jodi Girouard, was inspired to write down her thoughts and share them with the Mercy Connections community. In Jodi's words, "Here's my attempt to uplift and to share the power we all form when we are united to help and heal as Mercy Connections does for us."

Mercy Connections

*There is Mercy still connecting us all, the brave
who dare even in the small feats to meet the days
in choosing not to lose our union
but to separate to heal, to feel we can aid.
We are scattered ships now made to be blown back
to each our port of call, the squalls can be severe
but we are still near, reaching out no doubt to share
the care that comes from our community.
In the city there is silence in the rooms beyond
the halls, yet the calls still seeking, reaching out
to ensure peace, release stress, the mess
that some still find. By design the program
that heals, that feeds strength in minds,
that fosters leaders, readers that shape change,
arrange their system to telecommute.
Another route to deliver their compassion,
the fashion to lift, to gift the endless news of hope.
We can cope by raising our voices in unison, the choices
of teams that dream up sunshine and health
when joined in song to inspire, to desire
to help save the world. The weather outside uncurled
the tiny seeds beneath the thawing soil, the turmoil
that dries the season tries to coax seeds of change
into the growth we can be in unity.
As we unite, our sight on the planet
May be to peacefully pray, or stay, or seize the day
in our own backyards to promote safe living.
Mercy Connections is ever giving, ever empowers, showers
the many they have helped water their roots
that lead to growth of mighty Oaks to tiny saplings all in the garden of life.
A forest of fantastic creations, nations of
the new and old, a bold sensation
that creates support and wishes all those*

*on a break to make their voices sing.
Ring out today's delight that you are called
to be a single life that still can change
the world for better even in a time apart.
For hearts still sing for you, still see your view,
want to share their care, the beautiful notes
we strike together united at Mercy Connections.*

By Jodi Girouard, local poet and Mercy Connections participant
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Jodi Girouard is a native Vermonter who currently resides in South Burlington. She is a poet of two books, writes a poem a day on her blog, Jodigirouard.wordpress.com and was recently published in "Much Madness", a collection of VT essays to inspire hope in people just diagnosed with a mental illness. Her memoir which explores her story of her mental illness, trauma, and recovery, is due out in May and is entitled, "Living with the Neighbors."