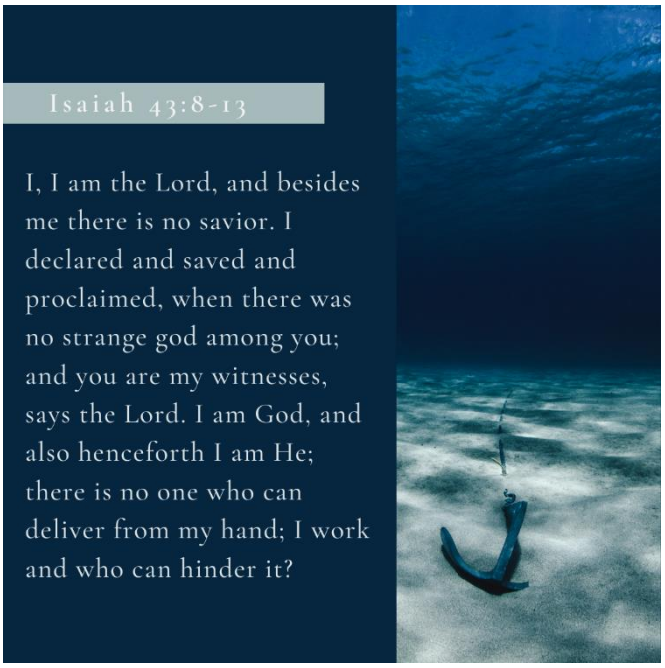
March 20, 2021 Lenten Devotional
Isaiah 43:8-13 - "Besides Me There is No Savior"
By: Olivia Dillard, Epiphany, Richmond

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!
Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.
Who among them declared this,
and foretold to us the former things?
Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
and let them hear and say, 'It is true.'
You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.
I, I am the Lord,
and besides me there is no saviour.
I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses, says the Lord.
I am God, and also henceforth I am He;
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
I work and who can hinder it?



- Isaiah 43:8-13

Reflection
the prophet Isaiah said
that you had something to say about us.
about who I am
and about who you are

that you're a savior
the(?)
only singular savior
and a really good one at that.
unobstructable, unhinderable
I don't really understand.

but I'm called to bear witness and to serve because of that
I am who I am because of you, God.
inextricably linked to you, God
only in relation to you, God.
servant - *to you*
witness - *for you*

but, God,
I'm not Isaiah.
Isaiah was the one crying out - here I am.
not me.

haven't you seen who I am?
the sinfully apathetic superspreader of these life-crushing pandemics
of racism
of transphobia
of violence
of sexism
of homophobia
of excessive love of self
oh, God, I can't begin to name it all.

and I just close my eyes and cover my ears.

so why is your prophet talking to *me*?
why are y*ou* talking to me?
how could I bear witness?
how could I serve?
how could I have *anything* to do with you?
the unobstructable, unhinderable savior

even as I don't fully know you
and certainly don't understand you
you know me.

so I yield
I'll make my most whole-hearted fully-flawed effort
to open my eyes and to uncover my ears
to bear witness and to serve
to remember who *we* are.

+blessings on your Lenten journey