

Dear friends,

For the past week, I have been participating in COP26 as part of the Presiding Bishop's Delegation. I get up in the wee hours of the morning and log into the plenary sessions where I hear global leaders make pledges that give me glimmers of hope. At any moment I can attend side events where the people most impacted by climate change tell harrowing stories of living with climate disruption. With a few clicks on my browser, I can move on to workshops where solution paths are shared. In many of the sessions, Indigenous voices are elevated in ways that I have never seen before in the climate negotiation space. If I pause and get on social media, I see thousands of activists in the street demanding accountability and action. My lifeline throughout all of this is a Slack Channel (i.e., dedicated group instant messaging) with my fellow delegates. We are a diverse group that shares a passion for this work. I can't imagine doing this work without the mutual support.

I imagined that I would be able to send thoughtful reflections out to all of you at the end of every day. Hah! My days start around 4 am (noon in Glasgow!) when I make a strong cup of coffee and dive into the breaking news and look for the most promising sessions. Initially, I would have up to three sessions running at once, moving between windows looking for what is the MOST IMPORTANT THING. That turns out to be an exhausting and losing strategy because, in the end, it's all important and, frankly, overwhelming in its scope. Thank goodness for the delegation where we post key points and alert each other the best of the best moments of the day.

I can share with you that I have appreciated the support I have felt from all of you and will end the week with three of my favorite moments.

- The opening session included Ms. Brianna Fruean from Samoa. Her message on behalf of Pacific Island youth, "We are not drowning, we are fighting." Video link [here](#).
- The week brought a cascade of pledges and initiatives making it difficult to parse whether we were making progress or simply engaging in more "blah, blah, blah." John Kerry, special envoy for climate to the President, provided an optimistic roadmap in his press conference ([here](#)). He cites credible analysis that indicates that with the pledges for reducing emissions along with the trillions of dollars put on the table to address mitigation, the world could be on track for a 1.8C warming. Not at 1.5 C yet but definitely a change in the right direction. His speech is a model of clear-eyed optimism.
- The voices of Indigenous leaders were present throughout the Conference. I had the thrill of seeing the US's first Indigenous Delegate, Past President of the Quinault Nation and current President of the National Council of American Indians, [Fawn Sharp](#), literally at the table in negotiations on adaptation and Indigenous rights. One of my favorite sessions was the side event entitled [The Need to Be Cold](#). Leaders from the Arctic described how global warming threatens their livelihoods and brought home the concept of 'Green Colonialism' as opposed to Indigenous self-determination. Although It's long - about 90 minutes – it will give you a flavor of what it's like to be at COP. And I promise you'll be inspired.

There's still a week to go and the Presiding Bishop's office promises that next week will be even more exciting than this week because that's when the real work will get done. Stay tuned.

Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. And now it's time for a nap!

All the best,  
Lisa