



Given that... by Bara Braver

Helen Keller declared, steadfast,
Given that I am not able to see or hear
I will never read or write.

Not so.

The sparrow chirped,
given that it is getting to winter cold now
I will not find any warm place to nest.

Not so.

Beethoven said, in a minor chord,
in light of my ever-greater deafness
my days of writing music are forever gone.

Not so.

And the willow wept
given that when it is fall my leaves do just that
I will not put forth new ones when spring comes.

Not so.





In light of...and given that
we don't know
how we can make it through the illness of our planet,
the polarization of our country,
how we can make it through illness and fear of
illness and dislocation
and fear of dislocation
and loss and fear of loss... given that...in
light of that
is our wisest course now to sink into
hopeless grief?

Ah me...Not so.
So not so.

From the people I talk to and the lives I observe,
I would indeed say NOT SO! AMEN.-----

