"What is most impressive in the hospitals is not the ventilators, CT scanners or other high-tech wizardry. It’s the compassion and courage of health workers, and the intervention that struck me the most was decidedly low-tech — the hand-holding.

Katherine Chavez, a nurse at Montefiore Moses, recalled a man in his early 40s with no medical history. He was intubated, and she spent 12 hours by his bedside as he struggled for life. “He would grab my hand, and I just kept telling him that everything is going to be OK,” she said.

To Start: WASH UP
I talk dirty to an empty room
Was Goldilocks feeling deprived?
Just close your eyes and say,
"Ahhhhhh."
[beat]
ACTION:
Straddle
Wrap
Fold
Mold
Drape
Squeeze
Hold
Embrace
Cuddle
All Furniture in the room you inhabit that previously was touched by
occupied by another
[beat]
Hug a tree they said
Just close your eyes and say,
"Ahhhhhh."
[beat]
Now take an inventory around you / of Your surroundings now / How much is / smooth edges, rounded forms, bright hues, warm & consuming sinking beckoning close comfort into / Touch? / How much is / sharp corners, hard lines, cool hues, cold & shunning detracting rejecting close comfort into / Touch? / Where do you linger? / What do you hold? / What do you share?"
[resume]

Why are the birds so loud now? Is it because the traffic has subsided? No, it’s mating season.

You are your safest and most devoted lover.

Just close your eyes and say, "Ahhhhh."

To End: WASH UP