

HOPE

Someone once said that “Hope is celebration of the human Spirit”. And what does that mean?

In this strange and stressful time on earth I see Hope in the new ways people are supporting one another. We are finding new ways to BE together, play together, worship together, and share with one another. It is heartening to see so many families riding bikes, hiking, and working together without all the distractions that our modern world before COVID-19. There is a deeper appreciation for all the people in our lives that touch our lives in new and different ways.

For example, the “howling” in appreciation for those who are caring for the sick and dying, for those offering their gift of music on the street or out of windows for others to join them or just listen, for Landlords offering grace periods for those unable to pay rent...and on and on. These creative ways are saying.... “I am here and I want to connect with you”. This gives me great Hope that the human race is attempting to live through these hard times in a loving and healthy way.

I find hope in the belief that God created us and the whole of Creation to celebrate life. Earth does what it does in the warmth of Spring causing seeds to grow, trees to bloom, animals coming out of their dens, fish to spawn and food to become plentiful. Each season brings its own gifts to us and our cycle of human life. Nature is not held up by the virus or our reaction to it. God’s creation moves on in a world of hope and invites us to move with it.

A Prayer of Peace from the New Zealand Prayer Book

God of Peace, let us, your people know that at the heart of turbulence there is an inner calm that comes from faith in you. Keep us from being content with things as they are, that from this central peace there may come a creative compassion, a thirst for justice, and a willingness to give of ourselves in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

- Willie Hoffer