

Is The Hope Yet in the Darkness?

Transformation 87.87D

Words: Neryl McCallum

Music: John Bell

1 Is there hope yet in the dark-ness for this world seems cold and bare? In con -
 2 Hope is sing - ing in the dark-ness for Christ's light seeks us all lean - ing
 3 We will sing hope in - to dark-ness we will walk the path of peace. We will

5
 1 fus - ion and dis - ord - er, tell me God, do you still care? We are
 2 in to gath - er round us hold us through both pain and joy. Hear the
 3 speak hope in - to suff - 'ring for God's good - ness does not cease. We will

9
 1 doubt - ful and un - cer - tain, mea - gre thinking spoils the earth. We are
 2 song of Christ's com - pass - ion call - ing out, yearn - ing to be with us
 3 be Christ's true com - pass - ionates, bear - ers of his thorn - y crown, God's com -

13
 1 hop - ing with - in ang - uish that your love will come to birth.
 2 dan - cing in God's myst - 'ry bring - ing love and lib - er - ty.
 3 mun - i - ty re - joic - ing, bring - ing heav - en here and now.

The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church. To receive most benefit, hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their hearing aid to T-setting.



Pilgrim Uniting Church

12 Flinders Street, Adelaide



9.30 COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Pentecost 13

14 August 2016

Community candles are lit

Centering reflection

Friends, we are holders of a common thread;
 the thread of priceless grace that winds creatively in, and around us all.
 Often it feels golden, unbreakable;
 at other times, it looks tarnished and frayed,
 to the unthinkable point of shredding apart
 through antipathy – distrust, of one another.
 We come, therefore, to be stilled, to listen deeply,
 to create room for another voice, another presence
 – beyond and before our own –
 to reorient and lift us in perspective and heart,
 instilling lasting grace, peace and hope. *Sean Gilbert*

A silence is kept as we find ourselves in company with God and with each other.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:
 We thank you for the gift of life:
 for the breath that sustains life,
 for the food of this earth that nurtures life,
 for the love of family and friends
 without which there would be no life.
 We thank you for the mystery of creation:
 for the beauty that the eye can see,
 for the joy that the ear may hear,

for the unknown that we cannot behold filling the universe with wonder,
for the expanse of space that draws us beyond the definitions of our selves.
We thank you for setting us in communities:
for families who nurture our becoming,
for friends who love us by choice,
for companions at work, who share our burdens and daily tasks,
for strangers who welcome us into their midst,
for people from other lands who call us to grow in understanding,
for children who lighten our moments with delight,
for the unborn, who offer us hope for the future.
We thank you for this day:
for life - and one more day to love,
for opportunity - and one more day to work for justice and peace,
for neighbours - and one more person to love
and by whom be loved,
for your grace - and one more experience of your presence,
for your promise:
to be with us, to be our God, and to give salvation.
For these, and all blessings,
we give you thanks, eternal, loving God, **Amen.**

Vienna Cobb Anderson

Song: SPG4 41 Justice and Truth

Welcome

Acknowledgement

Psalm 80 - a dramatised introduction to the key themes

Psalm 80 (from 'The Message')

Remember how you brought a young vine from Egypt, cleared out the
brambles and briars and planted your very own vineyard? You prepared the
good earth, you planted her roots deep; the vineyard filled the land. Your vine
soared high and shaded the mountains, even dwarfing the giant cedars. Your
vine ranged west to the Sea, east to the River. So why do you no longer protect
your vine? Trespassers pick its grapes at will; Wild pigs crash through and crush
it, and the mice nibble away at what's left. God-of-the-Angel-Armies, turn our
way! Take a good look at what's happened and attend to this vine. Care for
what you once tenderly planted - the vine you raised from a shoot. And those

**May this be the truth that guides our lives,
the ground from which our future will grow,
until we meet again.** (*Bruce Sanguin*)

Song: SPG4 23 For sake of life
(*Please come forward at the end of this song and form a large circle at the
front. Please place your offering for the mission and ministry of Pilgrim Church
in the bowls on the table. Food donations which will be made available to
disadvantaged people, will be brought forward at the same time.*)

Prayer of dedication

We give thanks for all we have received, O God: gifts of love and time, money
and abilities. Into these bowls and into this place, we return a portion of these
gifts. Bless those who receive them, just as we are blessed in the act of sharing
them. **Amen.**

Words of blessing and benediction

We are sent out from our service of worship, to worship God in service – to be
God's people for Christ and for the world. As you enjoy the goodness of God's
love today among friends and family, and in the goodness of creation, walk in
the light of the Risen One. May the keeping of Christ be about you. May the
guarding of God be with you to possess you, to protect you, to accompany you
on all your paths, through trouble, through danger, through loss. And may the
dancing of the Spirit be around you, each day, each night, each night, each day.

Amen. (*adapted, Kate McIlhaggaghs*)

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
A sign of peace is exchanged.

*Thank you to those who participated in the service through music,
singing, speaking, action, prayers and tech support.*

*Our community is strengthened because each of us has a contribution to offer.
Please join us for refreshments in the hall - and thanks to those who go ahead
to prepare the tea and coffee for us.*

Reading: Luke 12: 49-56

Witness

A time for reflection and response

Song: SPG4 94 Where the Spirit is, there's freedom

Prayers for others:

Psalm 80 guides us through our prayers for others. The psalmist find himself in the deepest darkness of abandonment and despair. The people are chronically downcast, and suffer constant aggression from hostile forces. Before, the vine was great and magnificent - there was a great nation. Now, the vine is reduced to forage for the wild beasts - the nation is plundered. The psalmist's question, how long, is never answered. What we hear in the psalm is a voice of despair, fear and hopelessness, crying out to a silent God. Their cry is *lechem dimah*, the bread of tears ('we're eating tears here, Lord'). 'The lament makes an assertion about God: that this dangerous, available God matters in every dimension of life'. (Walter Brueggeman)

For whom do we pray this day, people who find themselves in a situation where the psalmist's words could be their words? For those who experience destruction and violence. For those who experience abandonment and loss. For those who are afraid.

Prayers are offered: This is my prayer/**This is our prayer**
(a microphone will be brought around for people who wish to offer a brief prayer)

**Loving Presence, luminous in all creation,
hallowed be your name.**

Thy kin-dom come.

May we reflect on earth the yielding perfection of the heavens.

Help us to receive an illumined measure from the earth this day.

**Forgive us when we trespass against others,
human and other than human,**

as we forgive others who trespass against us.

Keep us on the path of wisdom

when we are tempted to take the selfish path.

May it be your rule we follow,

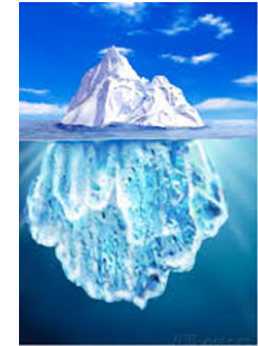
your power we exercise,

and your radiance that allures.

who dared to set it on fire - give them a look that will kill! Then take the hand of your once-favourite child, the child you raised to adulthood. We will never turn our back on you; breathe life into our lungs so we can shout your name! God, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, come back! Smile your blessing smile: *That* will be our salvation.



privilege



humility/service

Reflection on 'privilege' (Privilege comes from Latin *privilegium*, and means a benefit enjoyed by an individual or group beyond what's available to others)

Prayers of who we are

In holding up the mirror to assumptions about privilege - personally, and in our global village, what might it reflect back to us? What might challenge our assumptions and priorities?

In the company of God, we can have confidence to open our lives and see our strengths and failures, our longings and our hopes, our motives and our actions.
A time of silence for reflection.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, hear these words of enduring hope: our lives are always held within the cherishing of God. Let us lean into that hope and open ourselves to love, peace and joy. **Thanks be to God!**

Song: Is there hope yet in the darkness? (see Page 6)
verse 1 solo, verse 2 two voices, verse 3 **all** (*please remain seated*)

Please pass a sign of peace to those seated close to you.