

Because We Hope

So many have given...so many have died that none may be lost, that all may be free. Bravery is selflessness, courage exists in the faith of something better, of peace that cannot be imagined. There is something within all of us, that makes us hope for the better, so strong is this hope that we are willing to die for it, whether we are prepared for death or not. There is a love that we hold for our fellow man, we suppress it, we forget it, we seek to kill it by indifference. But there are those who will live for it and die for it. They are the brave, they are the courageous, they are

heroes. Not because they died, not because they suffered...but because they hoped. Their hope is greater than death, for it reaches beyond what is to that which can be. Their hope is love, their courage is faith and their sacrifice is promise. They sacrifice for the promise that they will never experience, they live in the hope that they died for, their love is found in the hope we live for, in the hope they fought for. Their lives are not empty, but full. They have suffered and died, but not in vain because they lived in hope.

“Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.” C. S. Lewis

Advent is the season for hope, not just to hope, but for hope to thrive. Hope is a fire that burns internally, it ignites our desires and passions. Hope is the driving force behind all positive change and is the only thing that can achieve lasting peace. Hope is more than a thought, or a dream, rather it is the reality of a dream. Hope is what changes thoughts into actions and dreams into being. Jesus is our hope and in Him shall be born peace.

“...he shall be peace.” Micah 5:4

How are we then supposed to have hope in the darkest times and when it seems that all is lost? Hope is never stronger than at these times, it's never more powerful, inspiring or real. Think of how a child hopes and believes without second guessing. There is a great beauty in the hope of a child. What hope do you think that Jesus had as a boy? What inspired Him? What gave Jesus His determination to go to the Cross and suffer for us? Hope is eternal, hope breaks the bonds of this world to reveal the depth and beauty of God. Rejoice in hope for in hope comes peace and love.

**Dear Jesus,
You hoped in the promise of the Father.
You have hope in me and in all that I do.
You hope is beauty and truth beyond all comprehension. Teach me to live in hope, even in the darkest of nights and suffering that befalls me. Let nothing in this world trouble me or shake the power of hope. May hope be my source for living and my source for giving. Let my words and actions echo hope. Hope in You, hope eternal and in the hope of love. AMEN**