



All of us have witnessed this week our world at its most ugly. Racism in its most crude and cruel form. We have been left heartbroken, sickened, and filled with grief at the loss of a life, knowing this tragedy is not the first and unlikely to be the last.

In Micah 6 v 8 we read "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God".

So as Christians we are called to be a people of HOPE. We are instructed to stand up for injustice and call out inequalities, to make a difference. To not be silent.

Song

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust is Jesus' name

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust is Jesus' name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all
He is Lord
Lord of all, Christ alone

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord...

Edward Mote | Eric Liljero | Jonas Myrin | Reuben Morgan | William Batchelder Bradbury
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"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

Desmond Tutu

"This hope is like a firm and steady anchor for our souls. In fact, hope reaches behind the curtain and into the most holy place."

Hebrews 6:19 CEV

"I will bless you with a future filled with hope – a future of success, not of suffering."

Jeremiah 29:11 CEV



Read Ruth 1

Teaching

What might the story of Ruth reveal to you about God and his deep love?

Prayers

Heavenly father, we want to pray now for peace in our world. We want to see our world transformed into one where all men and all women are equals and the same justice applies to all. Only you can stamp out the evil that is racism, and repair lives and communities.

Help us to be willing to be the answers to this prayer – use us to speak up against injustice, poverty, and inequality, where we see it prevail. And use us to be bringers of hope, and be part of the transformation of our circle of community, in whatever small way we can.

Father we want to pray especially for Viv Wild and for Margaret Bycroft, both bereaved this week. Please be their cornerstone at this sad time.

Be with all those anxious about going back to school or starting back at work.

Reassure those with health worries, and awaiting hospital appointments.

Equip our frontline workers with energy and resilience and keep them safe.

Amen

Song

Jesus, hope of the nations
Jesus, comfort for all who mourn
You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth

You rose from the dead conquering fear
Our Prince of Peace drawing us near
Jesus our hope, living for all who will receive
Lord, we believe

Jesus, light in the darkness
Jesus, truth in each circumstance
You are the source of Heaven's light on earth

Jesus, hope of the nations
Jesus, comfort for all who mourn
You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth

In history You lived and died
You broke the chains, You rose to life

Jesus, light in the darkness
Jesus, truth in each circumstance
You are the source of Heaven's light on earth

You are the hope living in us
You are the rock in whom we trust
You are the light shining
for all the world to see

Brian Doerksen
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Selah

Peace in the time of Corona

Take the insult of this isolation God
And fashion from it
Flourishing and fruitfulness
From this sentence of suspension
Shape a Sabbath
Craft from this cessation
Celebration

In this uninvited interval
Teach us God
To savour slowness
To find sense
In our solitude
To make of this
A holy hiatus

Remind us
Where we have forgotten
That music has meaning
In the see-saw
Of silences and sound
That we read

Not by words alone
But by spaces
In between them
That we compute
By urging everyone
To find it's zero

We thrive by the thrust
And the recoil
Our life is in the pressure
And the pause

May the psalms we sing
In our seclusion
Be the richer
For the stillness
Of this sacred
Selah moment

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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.