

The Unity of Hope

When it comes to issues of global poverty and inequalities, it can be hard to know how to make a difference. As Christians we have the opportunity to partner with God in this work, and we are united by the hope that is rooted in God's plan for the world. Isaiah 40: 31 reminds us that 'those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.'



The hope of finding a solution unites us. None of us has the capacity to change the world on our own, but together we can make a real difference. Our union, based on our hope, can help us to work toward our goal.

Whether you are praying, donating, volunteering, sending messages of encouragement and support, or simply taking the time to read this and learn more, you are part of the solution.

To have hope is to be offered a challenge. If we hope that things might be better in the future, we are trusting that God will use us to change the world. Hope might be dangerous, but the alternative is despair. Those of us who believe in a God of mercy and love need not despair. We must, however, take up the call to action. Micah 6:8 calls us to 'act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly' with our God.

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'TO DO JUSTICE: means taking action to create peace and right the wrongs of this world. To "embrace faithful love" is to give our utmost allegiance to God, even when the stakes are high. And to "walk humbly" with God implies that we do all this for a lifetime – in right relationship with the one who created us to love and to be loved.' ¹

How can we hold the hope of things to come with the reality of how things are? We must remind ourselves that we are God's hands and feet on earth – that God works through us.



Both in our personal lives and in our collective lives, we must act out our faith, believing that God has marked our lives with a purpose, which will always entail looking after the other.

JOIN US this Lent as we remind ourselves of the hope that anchors us: to God and to one another, and emboldens us to pray, give, and to act to bring God's love to the world.

'In this season of Lent, teach us again the source of true power for life. Feed us with spiritual food that will fill us with energy, courage, freedom, and authority that we may be your agents of healing in the world. Amen' ²



Jim Loring/Tearfund

¹ From the CEB Women's Bible article on Justice.

² Walter Brueggemann, *A Way Other Than Our Own: Devotions for Lent* page 37.