

A Legacy of Hope

November 2022 (30 October - 26 November)



We have been entrusted with a legacy of hope by all the saints that have gone before us! Not a legacy of fear, or suspicion or bitterness, but one of hope! We are responsible for nurturing a legacy that has sustained, inspired and comforted generations over the centuries.

We begin by reflecting on All Saints Day, exploring the legacy that the Communion of Saints have carried with them and subsequently handed on to us. Over the month we want to ask, what legacies do we rely on and draw strength from? And what legacies will we leave behind? Are we leaving legacies of hope?

Our hope is a rich, transformative thing. Hope is not optimism, or foolhardiness, or cheerfulness, or a denial of reality. Our hope is knowing that the deep love at the heart of the universe — the deep love of God — loves us, and cares for us and considers us all worthy of that love. Life is incredibly hard and complex but we live hopefully in the light of that world-changing love, hoping to do our bit as we can, relying on God and one another.

As we enter a time of turmoil and change in our lives, churches and society — how can we ensure that we hold on to this hope? Our proud inheritance — handmade by God, given to us by Jesus, and instilled more each day through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit — is an invaluable resource.

We shall end the month with the beautiful legacy of hope spoken from the cross, as Jesus turns to the suffering man in agony next to him and says, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."(see Luke 23:33-43).

SETTING THE SCENE: This month we are experimenting with having a visual/multi-sensory motif for each week. The idea is that this word provides an additional focus point for preparing services or multimedia from the material. It is not intended to be restrictive and is simply a suggestion to combine with the theme prompts to inspire creativity.

SEEDS TO SOW: Additional suggestions to facilitate varied ways of responding to the readings and sub-themes for the month. These are open-ended and optional and are designed especially for people creating worship resources in response to the material.

Each week of the four week theme runs Sunday-Saturday and has its own subtheme, which contains daily Bible readings and prompts for thought.

Looking out with hope (30 October)

We are bearers of a legacy of hope. Even if skies darken and clouds threaten we can look out with hope as a sealed, redeemed and called people; living in the light of everlasting righteousness; boasting of those we have the privilege of standing beside! This All Saints Day we remember all those who stand beside us, behind us and before us!

SETTING THE SCENE: **WEATHER**

SEEDS TO SOW: **WRITING A LETTER TO GOD**

1. Habakkuk 1:1-4;
2:1-4
 2. Psalm 119:
137-144
 3. Ephesians 1:
11-23 (All Saints Day)
 4. Isaiah 1: 10-18
 5. 2 Thessalonians
1: 1-4, 11-12
 6. Luke 19: 1-10
 7. Luke 6: 20-31
1. **Standing at the watch post.** Contemplating a legacy of vigil, of waiting on the Lord.
 2. **Living in the light of everlasting righteousness.** The light of righteousness will not go out even though long dark winters.
 3. **Sealed, redeemed, called.** Sealed by the Holy Spirit, redeemed as God's own people, called to hope. The envelope is stamped, the address is written, we are ready to be posted out into God's world.
 4. **Do we tend a legacy of dread or one of hope for the oppressed, the orphan, and the widow?**
 5. **Boasting of you.** Who do we boast of? Whose example do we boast about?
 6. **Social climber vs tree climber.** Zacchaeus risks his reputation to get a closer look.
 7. **What is the legacy of the beatitudes?** Do these hope filled words infuse our lives?

A living legacy (6 November)

We are encouraged, enlivened and enthused by the legacy of hope that has been left to us. Our legacy of faith is not static, inert or frozen. It's organic, vibrant, and nourishing. If our legacy is stale, confining and desiccated is it anymore a legacy of hope? Contrast capturing a rare butterfly species and preserving it under glass with nurturing a thriving environment that supports countless generations of butterflies to fly free. Both our natural heritages and our theological heritages are living things with interconnected components. Part of preserving either is considering how to innovate, reconfigure and cross-pollinate. Carefully considering the whole eco-system can better protect individual strands and make them more adaptable and resilient. The decisions we make about what we grow and how we grow it — in both our gardens and our churches — can nourish a rich living tradition or stifle it...

SETTING THE SCENE: **GARDEN**

SEEDS TO SOW: **WHAT ARE WE CONSERVING?**

1. Haggai 1:
15b-2:9
 1. **My spirit abides among you; do not fear.** The best is yet to come.
 2. **From generation to generation.** Lauding God's work.
2. Psalm 145: 1-5,
17-21
 3. **A legacy of old songs and new songs entwined.** Cross-pollinating our worship!
 4. **Our redeemer lives!** Picking up our iron pens.
3. Psalm 98
 5. **A legacy of honest conversation with God.** Hope comes from honesty; as we apples of God's eye, grow to bear fruit.
4. Job 19: 23-27a
 6. **Stand firm, hold fast.** What have we learned? What have we relearned?
5. Psalm 17:1-9
 7. **Pruning in hope.**
6. 2 Thessalonians
2:1-5, 13-17
7. John 15: 1-11

Drawing from the well (13 November)

Our living legacy of hope is one we can draw from: under a hot sun on a long dusty road or in the middle of shrouded night, in a busy square or a quiet little bench, under the glittering forest canopy or at the foot of an imposing mountain. Like water, our traditions can refresh, sustain and transform us...

SETTING THE SCENE: **WATER**

SEEDS TO SOW: **WHAT NEEDS TRANSFORMED?**

1. Isaiah 65: 17-25
 2. Isaiah 12
 3. Jeremiah 2: 1-13
 4. John 4: 1-6
 5. John 4: 7-26
 6. John 4: 27-29
 7. John 4: 39-42
1. **Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.** A vision of what is and what is yet to come. Remembering sacrifice and loss and remembering too our future of hope.
 2. **Drawing from the well of salvation.** A foretaste of gratitude.
 3. **A cracked cistern.** Often we can miss the wellspring in our attempt to dig our own cisterns.
 4. **Legacies of refreshment.** Reflecting on those times and places where we get to rest.
 5. **A legacy of hope that can live up to a legacy of thirst.** Picture the scene.
 6. **Come and see!** A legacy we just have to share.
 7. **We can introduce people to the legacy but they have to encounter it themselves...**

The precipice of hope (20 November)

We find ourselves at the precipice of hope, in the 'now and not yet' of God's unfolding Kingdom. We bear a legacy of transformation and renewal. An ancient legacy that stretches back into the past and on into eternity but also calls to act right here, right now.

SETTING THE SCENE: **CROSS**

SEEDS TO SOW: **LECTIO DIVINA**

1. Luke 1: 68-79
 2. Jeremiah 23: 1-6
 3. Psalm 46
 4. Proverbs 18: 10
 5. Romans 5: 1-5
 6. Colossians 1: 11-20
 7. Luke 23: 33-43
1. **Zechariah on the precipice of hope.** Scanning the horizon for hope.
 2. **Woe to the shepherds.** Get a grip shepherds!
 3. **God is with us!** Take heart.
 4. **A strong tower.** Sheltering in God's name.
 5. **Hope doesn't disappoint.** Deep hope.
 6. **The shadow of the cross and the light of the dawn.** We live in the 'now and not yet'. God's kingdom is here but we are still being reconciled, stitched together, peace is growing.
 7. **A beautiful legacy of hope spoken from the cross.** You will be with me.