**OFFERING HOPE**

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic many of you have found yourselves confined to your homes, things we once took for granted such as going out for a cup of coffee, tea or a meal are no longer available at this time. We watch the news, we get daily updates from all levels of governments as well as from public health and we ask how long Lord? Jeremiah 31:13, reminds us that “God will turn our mourning into joy.”

**Prayer for hope:**

Most Holy and Loving God, you who have journeyed with our ancestors through times of struggles and times of joy, we know that you are with us today in our times of struggles. God, we know that you have not abandoned us; you are with us as we navigate this passage from fear to embrace a semblance of peace within us. Open our ears, to receive the healing you have in store for us. Heal our nations and its peoples, we pray in your holy name. Amen!

**Reflection:**

When we are faced with difficult situations, we suddenly realise how fragile life is. We stop taking things for granted and we ask ourselves and those we love why? We are inundated with news around the coronavirus, there is fear along with a sense of urgency for something, anything to make this go away. For some of us we turn to our faith in order to find sustenance to help us through our everyday lives. While for others they want a cure and they want it now. The reading from Jeremiah 31: 13, reminds us that no matter what struggles we are facing, the God we serve, will turn our mourning into joy. The message for us today and for the days to come is, there is good news for us, we are not alone. Joy comes in the morning. Let the people of God say Amen!

Hymn VU 166, Joy Comes with the Dawn

Joy comes with the dawn, joy comes with the morning sun; joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song, joy comes with the dawn.

(If you have the hymn book you are welcome to sing and or reflect upon the words).

There is great hope in knowing that God’s love for us never fails. God journeys with us through time and joins in our times of struggles. God invites us to embrace the joy that comes with the morning light.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

**Link to the Hymn:**

<https://youtu.be/ox1r0OzIwoo>

Rev. Eleanor Scarlett

March 19 2020