

**KDCCW Opening Prayer and Meditation –April 23, 2020**  
**Lucy Brown - Spirituality Commission Chair**

**“OPEN US TO HOPE ...”**

These words are from the final section of the **Litany of Supplication** ( <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/litany-supplication-urbi-et-orbi-pope-francis.html> ) that was prayed in Rome during a critically called holy hour on March 27, 2020, presided over by Pope Francis on the steps of St Peter’s Basilica. Standing before an empty St. Peter’s Square he called the world together via all means of technological communication in order to beseech, as one people, God’s deliverance to all -- body, soul and spirit -- from the coronavirus pandemic which is ravaging the world. This landmark hour included his uniquely timed and ordered *Urbi et Orbi* blessing for the whole world.

It is to our Holy Father’s words – “**open us to hope**” – that I address this meditation.

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Fr. Mike Schmitz in his eight-minute video from Ascension Press “The Role of Hope in Holy Week” ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sgbQJsS8uE&feature=youtu.be> ) enlarges upon his personal working definition of **hope** as “**trust in another extended into the future.**” For the Christian, of course, this “another” is **Jesus**. The interaction between the two (Jesus and the believer) is “**incredibly relational.**” He goes on: The reality for the **need** for hope presents itself especially in times of fear and discouragement.

Fr. Mike shows that hope is a “**fighting virtue,**” one that moves particularly **forward** in the face of fear/discouragement. He develops the process of how we can come to truly say before Jesus: “**I need You. I have You. I know You are here with me whether I feel You or not.**” The foundation for the ability to say such words – and to act out of them – is **complete and utter trust in Jesus** Who is all good, all powerful, all knowing, infinitely wise.

So, yes! **Hope is indeed trust in another extended into the future!**

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Let’s take a look at some scriptures concerning “**hope.**”

(all printed verses are taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition, emphases mine)

***Be strong and take heart, all who hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:25***

*My soul, be at rest in God alone, from whom comes my hope.  
God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not fall.  
My deliverance and honor are with God, my strong rock; my refuge is with God.*

***Trust God at all times, my people!***

***Pour out your hearts to God our refuge! Selah Psalm 62:6-9***

*They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on eagles’ wings; They will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint. Isaiah 40:31*

*... since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in **hope** of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, **hope and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.** Romans 5:1-5*

The apostle Paul goes on to teach us more about hope in his other letters to the Romans as well, in chapters 8, 12 and 15.

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So, finally, let us ...

***Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.** Romans 12:12*

knowing that it is ...

**CHRIST THE MORNING STAR** whose **rising** we await in **hope**.

*(Magnificat 2020 Holy Week, from Holy Saturday's Evening Prayers' Intercessions, p. 204)*

We ponder and obey our first Holy Father, St. Peter,  
when he exhorts us ...

*... we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"—and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

*So we have the prophetic word made more sure, **to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and **THE MORNING STAR** arises in your hearts.*** 2 Peter 1:16-19

We recognize this **MORNING STAR** through His own words ...

**"I, Jesus... am** the root and the descendant of David, **the bright morning star.**"

*The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.*

*Revelation 22:16-17*

## Now for the Wrap Up!

It should not be too far-fetched for us to recognize aspects from the above conversations in yet another setting. This one perhaps unexpectedly so to some observers but one which is clearly legitimate and delightful as well.

Naturally we will quickly see similarities of our couple's physical surroundings with our own since spring's beauties also wrap themselves around us in these days.

Perhaps, however, additionally, the Holy Spirit would want to illumine us within with certain knowledge by which something "physical" actually takes on a "spiritual" tone and we will be left with something to ponder deeply and pray over.

Perhaps we will become aware of certain movements within our hearts that Jesus is wanting to initiate or renew. Remember that He is ever eager to take us "beyond" present thoughts and expectations.

So ... let us ask Him to show us what He wants us to know ... to see, to hear, to feel, to touch and to taste with Him (smothering Him afterward with gratitude) in the following unfolding drama that I would like to call

### **THE TWINING TOGETHER OF TWO HOPES, TWO LOVES**

*The sound of my lover! here he comes*

*springing across the mountains,*

*leaping across the hills.*

*My lover is like a gazelle*

*or a young stag.*

***See!** He is standing behind our wall,*

***gazing** through the windows,*

***peering** through the lattices.*

*My lover **speaks** and says to me,*

***Arise,** my friend, my beautiful one,*

*and **come!***

*For **see,** the winter is past,*

*the rains are over and gone.*

*The flowers appear on the earth,*

*the time of pruning the vines has come,*

*and the song of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

*The fig tree puts forth its figs,*

*and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance.*

***Arise,** my friend, my beautiful one,*

*and **come!***

*My dove in the clefts of the rock,*

*in the secret recesses of the cliff,*

*Let me see your face,*

*let me hear your voice,  
For your voice is sweet,  
and your face is lovely.”  
Catch us the foxes, the little foxes  
that damage the vineyards; for our vineyards are in bloom!  
My lover belongs to me and I to him;  
he feeds among the lilies.  
Until the day grows cool and the shadows flee,  
roam, my lover,  
Like a gazelle or a young stag  
upon the rugged mountains.*

*Song of Songs 2:8-17*



**RESURRECTION OF JESUS PAINTING AT THE TOMB OF JESUS  
IN THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, JERUSALEM**

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