



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”

roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting



I'm not very 'good' at poetry! I don't know if I'm too impatient to slow down and take in the words and nuance (probably!), or not creative enough to understand the way poetry makes meaning (also probably).

But a poem keeps drifting about me, from various sources; you may know it; *Hope is the thing with Feathers*, by Emily Dickinson

It's very short**, and turns up quite a bit in grief-related spaces.

Commentary on the poem argues that hope is miraculous and almost impossible to defeat. It never asks for anything in return; it costs nothing for people to maintain, not a crumb, yet it can literally and figuratively keep people alive. With hope, people can make it through the hardest of times. The poem implores us to value our capacity for hope—and to recognize that it's never really gone.

Last week I saw it referenced in a Christian blog (out of the US), which was talking about hope. Someone had written:

'Personally, I find it almost impossible to feel hopeful. Every time there is another announcement of life becoming more difficult for many because Felon 47 is following the dictator's handbook, my stomach knots in anger.... Hope is an intangible thing, isn't it? It has no muscle against the problem. I envy people who find comfort in hope. I honestly do. I don't dare write what I do hope for. I don't even say it out loud.'

The blogger replied:

'Hope is a choice. It cannot be dependent on things you don't control. Hope is not a comfort—it's a motivator. And it isn't blind (that would be wishful thinking). A person with hope envisions a better world in specific ways and works toward establishing it. Hope is a much better (and healthier) motivator than fear or anger.'

Cont'd over

Sunday July 27th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Amanda Jones**
Organist: Sean Weatherley
In person and online...

10.45am **Healing & Wholeness Service**

5.30pm **Worship Service with Amanda Jones and Sonia Powell**

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Hosea 1: 2—10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2: 6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11: 1-13

What's on this week

Tue	Kids Playtime 10.00—11.30am
Wed	Social Games 1.00—3.00pm Young Adult Small Group 7.00pm
Fri	Christian Meditation 2.30pm

Sunday August 3rd

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Rev. Aeyrun Lee**
Organist: Robert Bevan
In person and online...

5.30pm **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Rev. Aeyrun Lee and Dan Reeve**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Hosea 11: 1—11
Psalm 107: 1-9, 43
Colossians 3: 1-11
Luke 12: 13-21

Links

[Service live \(or replay\) streaming](#)

[Zoom \(for meetings\)](#)

[Church website](#)

[Chris' sermons](#)

These are two different interpretations. In one, hope is just inside us, waiting for us to draw on it but not asking anything of us. For the blogger though, hope is a choice and a motivator to action, rather than a comfort. He writes 'There's something divine about hope, about the conviction that there is more going on than the day-to-day drudgery, pain, and suffering that so often seem to define the human condition,' but he ends with some questions: 'What is the world you hope for? What are you doing now and what will you do in the future to bring that hoped-for world more sharply into focus and more likely to happen?'

I like that because it offers something tangible, and I'm not great with the intangible (hence my difficulty with poetry!) But we can also live in the promise of Psalm 91, that 'He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings will you find refuge.'

Like so much else though, it's not either/or, it's both. How do you think about hope?

**

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I've heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Amanda

Chris will be on leave from 21st July to 3rd August

Join us in Prayer ...

O God, our Heavenly Father,
give us a vision of our world as Your love would make it:
a world where the weak are protected
and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the benefits of civilized life are shared,
and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races, nations and cultures
live in tolerance and mutual respect,
a world where peace is built with justice,
and justice is guided by love;
and give us the inspiration and courage to build it,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Source: Geoffrey Brown and John Pridmore, *St Martin-in-the-Fields' Prayer for the World*)



UNITING YOUTH CAMP

FIX YOUR EYES



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