

Midweek Matters

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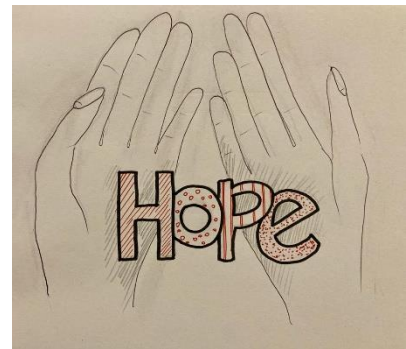
Take your everyday, ordinary life- your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life and place it before God as an offering." Romans 12:1 MSG

This weekend I had a conversation with someone (not from church) who asked me if my children (aged 4 and 7) were excited for Christmas. I said yes, we have put our tree up (early this year!), we are writing cards and wrapping gifts, and working our way through our advent calendars. And then she told me that she was not bothered about Christmas and said, "Well Christmas is just for children isn't it." Infact, twice during our conversation she said, "It's just for the children." I cannot tell you how deeply this grieves my heart. If Christmas is simply a jolly fat man in a red suit coming down your chimney to leave you presents because you have been good and deserve it.. if it is just a fairy tale for young minds who don't know any better, then yes I suppose you could say that it is just for children. But I believe it is about an even better story than that. I believe Christmas has relevance to every single human being on the planet. I believe that we celebrate Christmas because of a wonderful truth, an amazing gift, that God who created us out of love, poured himself out to come as a baby to dwell with us, to reveal himself in flesh and blood to our world so that we might know him, and be reconciled to him, so that we may live in freedom and love and discover his purpose for our lives. We are carriers of this hope, this sure thing, this promise that brings life and light. Let us carry that with us for all to see this Christmas.

Sunday 6th December - Holding onto hope, Arthur

Arthur spoke words of encouragement over us from my favourite Old Testament prophet Isaiah on the theme **#holdontohope**

'This is not a God who does social distancing.' He is present even in hopelessness. He is present because he is Emmanuel, God with us.



- Have you visited outside church lately? There is now a board encouraging you to tie a ribbon as a symbol of hope in our community and write down your hope for the future on a star.
- If you cannot visit church, what do you hope for and how are you being courageous in sharing your hope with others?

*God Bless,
Hannah (with thanks to Sally for the image)*

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