



Hi! I'm Jan. In this crazy, uncertain time, we all need some hope.

There has been so much loss. Loss of jobs, school, connection with family and friends, loss of health and sometimes, even life. You may have lost something or someone very important to you during the pandemic. I'm so sorry! All around us there is so much increased anxiety, grief and disappointment.

I haven't been able to see my elderly parents for weeks. It's really hard not to be there for them. All of this can be so overwhelming! We all need some hope right now. I would love to share my source of hope with you.

You see, I haven't always had hope. Growing up I was a very anxious child, getting stomach aches and then panic attacks over things like exams, a tiff with my Mom or issues at work.

Life felt hard, scary and demanding. I was feeling so much pressure to perform well, but no matter what I did, I never felt like I was measuring up, and I was sure that God must be disappointed with me as well. I had no peace of heart and I didn't know where to find hope.

But then I heard about hope in Jesus. I met the God who created me, sees me and loves me. He loves you! God looks at you with love in His eyes! I wanted to know Him, but ... I don't know if you can relate to this –

As I looked at my life there were things that I had done, if I was honest with myself, things that I was ashamed of, embarrassed by. And the Lord saw all of that! All of my sin.

That puts all of us in a difficult position, because God is holy, and the Bible tells us that the penalty for our sin is spiritual death. We are hopeless to change this on our own.

But God, because He loves us so much, has Himself provided a way for me and you to have forgiveness, peace and hope with Him. God stepped out of heaven, became the man, Jesus, lived a sinless life and offered Himself as a substitute in our place by dying on a cross for our sin. But death didn't hold Him. He rose from the dead, is alive today, and offers me and you forgiveness, and an eternal home with Him forever as a free gift from God. Now that's hope!

I can have confidence in Him and His promises, and I'm not afraid anymore. I know that wherever I am, I have hope in Jesus.

That doesn't mean that we'll never have problems or difficulty in this life. I recently had cancer, for the second time, in the same place. It was hard, but I didn't go through it alone. Jesus was with me, encouraging me every step of the way.

Would you like to know True hope? Would you like to know Jesus as your personal Savior and friend? He wants to give you God's gracious gift of eternal life with Him and walk with you through all of life's challenges.

If so, you can do that right now by putting your trust in Him and accepting His gift.

If you're interested, here is what that means:

- You want to trust Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior.
- When you accept His gift of salvation, all your sins are paid for, past, present and future, because Jesus paid for them on the cross.
- You have the promise of eternity with Him in heaven.
- He will walk with you and guide you through this life.

If you would like, you can make this commitment right now by talking to God directly. God knows your heart and is not as concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. I'm going to say a prayer that you can follow if you like.

Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I now put my trust in you to forgive me for my sins, to give me eternal life and to help me become the kind of person You want me to be. Thank you for answering this prayer. Amen

If you made a decision to trust Jesus today, we would love to hear about that! Please let us know. If you have questions that we can help you with, we're here for you. We would love to connect with you and get to know you better. Please contact Pastor Martin or call the church office to speak with someone who can help you on your faith journey.

We have encouragement videos on our website that you might be interested in, a Bible study to help you better understand how to find hope in Jesus. Bible study groups you might consider joining to learn more about Jesus and what the Bible says. You can also join us on Sundays for a relevant and encouraging message that will inspire and challenge you.

No matter the distance or sickness in this unique season, wherever you are, there's hope in Jesus.