

## **Blessed with Hope – Hope for Today and for Eternity**

### **Many Voices**

**Wednesday 14 April 2021**

**6:30 PM-8:00 PM**

#### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Background**

The Christian Church, that is, the people of the Jesus Movement, is blessed with a rich vocabulary which expresses our faith. Though most often we do not take the time to consider or study this vocabulary. Some of the major components of our vocabulary are grace, salvation, blessings, peace, joy, love, faith, and hope. Often these words seem vague to us and do not excite our lives. They are words that the preacher may mention on Sunday, but they actually have little meaning for us in the way we live.

During these six sessions we will explore one of those words. Hope.

Hope is commonly defined as a desire for something to happen or the wish for some pleasing outcome. Sometimes, we may wish for a not so pleasing outcome if it involves someone we do not like.

“I hope it all works out.”

“We hope you have a healthy boy.”

“I hope I did not fail my exam.”

“We hope our mortgage is approved.”

“I hope that your cancer is cured.”

“I hope he dies.”

“I hope that I will be blessed.”

When we examine hope from the Christian perspective, the word takes on a different meaning. Hope is the confident expectation that the promises of God will be fulfilled. During these six sessions we will explore together the how and the when of this fulfillment.

As you might expect, there are more than one opinion about the promises of God and how and when they will be fulfilled. Those are the many voices. We will be hearing some of them as well as our own voices over the next weeks.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. What is your understanding today of the Hope of Christians?
2. In Hebrews 11:1 the writer addresses hope and its relationship to faith. How do you understand this relationship?
3. Matthew (12:18-21) quotes Isaiah to describe Jesus, whom he calls “the hope of the world.” How do you understand hope in this passage? Is it the same or different when compared to the verse from Hebrews? Explain.
4. Micah (7:7) “waits confidently on God.” What situations make this difficult to do? Should we do more than wait?
5. N.T. Wright says that hope has world transforming power. What might he mean by that? Do you see the world being transformed by hope? Explain?

### **Closing Prayer**