

*...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5 NRSV*

How do we find hope?

Particularly in the face of an international difficulty, which has potential to destroy life

How do we deal with this present reality, yet find hope?

Can suffering take us to hope?

The author of Romans reminds us that suffering → endurance → character → hope

Why hope? Because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit

Quaker author, Thomas Kelly writes during World War II, amid great suffering

He reminds us that hope is deep within all of us, as the Eternal Christ is hidden in us all

Deeper living connects us to this Eternal Christ and to the seeds of hope

Kelly says if we take this awakened seed of Christ into the midst of the world's suffering

...it will grow

Hope is trusting God in the middle of the brokenness we find all around us in our world

Hope is trusting that God can do transformation as we face into the worst of the worst

Hope is trusting that the brokenness is not the end

Hope dares to both tell the truth about our situation and how bad it is

And trusts that God is present in the midst of it all

And trusts that God is at work in the middle of the brokenness

It is here that we look for and find God—that we see hope at work

As we join the work that God is doing, we sow seeds of hope

Remember that this is as true remotely as in person

God is not limited by social distancing

What has helped you deepen or strengthen your connection to the Eternal Christ? ...to God?

Where have you seen the seeds of hope this week?

Where have you sown seeds of hope this week?