



St John's Cathedral 聖公會聖約翰座堂

Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Message of Hope: Moving forward in faith

27th May 2020

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I think we are all happy that we are coming out of the time of lockdown that we have been living with in Hong Kong over the last months. Schools are holding exams, people are back to work, churches are reopening. There is a continuing sadness we feel about people who have lost their lives and who are still sick. There is a concern for those in economic difficulty, and for our community as a whole, but we can all breathe a collective sigh of relief that the past is past and we can begin once again.

Or can we? If you are like me, we also have lingering fears. Will the virus come back? Is it safe to get together with my friends? Can I go back to my favorite restaurant? Will I be able to travel in the summer to see family and loved ones in places that have been much harder hit by the virus? Sometimes the fears threaten to overwhelm us, and we become paralyzed or unable to act.

In times of uncertainty, in times in which joy and sadness are mixed together, we know that we cannot rely on ourselves or trust our own judgements. And in times such as these, prayer becomes all the more important. In prayer, we take the things that trouble us, the things that make us thankful, the feelings of uncertainty, the concerns that we have about others and turn them over to God. We cannot depend on ourselves – we are too weak and changeable – and so we turn to God, seeking God's wisdom, God's way for us, and God's love and embrace.

We continue to act and move forward, but we do so in faith, knowing that we will not be left alone. We will sometimes get things wrong, then we pick up and begin again.

My grandmother was an immigrant to the United States in the early part of the last century. She had endured much hardship in Finland. But she was from a tradition that never complained, but always looked forward to what lay ahead. As a boy, I was often by her side, and I often was with her when she prayed. "What are you praying for, Mummu?" I asked. She replied, "I am thanking God for this day, I am thanking God for you, and I am thanking God for everything that has happened to me, even the hard things." Anticipating my next question, she added, "Tomorrow will be another day." And she smiled, as she always did.

So let us give thanks for this day, for all the ways that God has blessed us. Let us give thanks that we have others to be with, and for a Church that takes us in. And even if we are having difficulties, even if

we are experiencing pain and hardship, as all of us do, let us give thanks anyway. I love what Emory Austin once said, "Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway."

Thank you all.