



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: Walk the talk

24th July 2020

The Revd Sharon Langbis

This is Mother Sharon here in St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong.

With what is happening now around the world: the pandemic, the recession, and the issue of racism, and here in Hong Kong, the concern for the National Security Law, it is really terrifying. There are lots of fear, doubt and what ifs.

Many are looking for something or somebody that could make them grasp true hope. Hope that will make us see and experience things in a different way.

There is a desperate need for hope in the world. How can we have hope when everything looks hopeless.

'Habang may buhay may pag-asa' - one of my favorite Filipino commonly known expression to give comfort. 'Being alive is a very sign that there is still hope.' It is the simple English translation that I could think of.

It is easier said than done. But again, as we Filipinos always say, 'salita at gawa', walk the talk. This belief should not just stay in the head, we need to do a lot of work to put this hope in action.

The Bible has many moving stories, taking for example the prophet Jeremiah. God set Jeremiah to proclaim judgement to a people who refused to listen.

He felt useless, depressed, and hopeless. But Jeremiah never gave up, he did his job on reminding the people to return to the Lord. He keeps on holding and hoping to God's promises. As we read from Jeremiah 29:11, 'for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (NIV)

Just like Jeremiah, sometimes we feel useless and hopeless especially in situations where it seems we could not really see the result of our prayers for years. We could not experience the result of our hope and faith to God. But as long as we believe that God knows our future and fulfill his mission in us, we can have tremendous hope.

'May God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' (Romans 15:13)

Amen.