



Reflections by the Lake  
Devotions for an Unordinary Time

May 22, 2020  
Hope for You and Me  
Nancy Berry

During these days of Covid 19 every person's life has been altered. This is a situation I have never dreamed of happening in my lifetime. Adjusting to orders and restrictions has been challenging. We all hope that our lives will soon return to some semblance of "normal."

Hope is a word I love. It is defined as “optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large; expect with confidence; to cherish a desire with anticipation.”

What's so great about hope? Hope leads to patience, joy, and courage. The word hope is used sixty-eight times in the Old Testament and fifty-eight times in the New Testament.

I have a painting in my bedroom area that is one of the first things I see every morning. It is a simple scene of Great Egrets in a marsh area hunting for their breakfast. As a new day has begun, the sunlight is cast low over the shimmering blue water and creates small shadows of these beautiful white birds. I see the hope and promise of a new day beginning each morning.

How I respond to this gift of a new day is my responsibility. Lord, help me be a witness in the things I say and do each day.

One of my favorite hymns we sing is “In the Bulb There Is a Flower.” This is a hope for you and me.

In the bulb there is a flower, In the seed, an apple tree,  
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody,  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery  
unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing, in our life eternity,  
In our death a resurrection, at the last a victory.  
unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see.

Natalie Sleeth

Thanks be to God!