



St. Luke's East Hampton

Reflections from Fr. Ben

August 13, 2026

When I am sitting on the beach under an umbrella, it's easy to lose track of forest fires that are devastating large swaths of the US and Europe, bombs are falling on Iraq, and children in Gaza – not to mention Sudan, Ukraine, or other troubled areas of the world – who are suffering. When I am gazing out at the waves and wondering what to have for lunch, it's easy to let concerns about AI, ICE, climate change, gerrymandering or any number of other issues slip away. Suddenly, as happened when Latino parishioners came into my office Wednesday morning, asking if we could do something to support the Colombian people in East Hampton (many of whom came from the village at the epicenter of last week's earthquake), real life breaks through our bubble, reminds us that all of these are spiritual issues and challenges us to get up out of our beach chairs and act.

Working in partnership with Father Luis Lopez of San Francisco Church in Riverhead, our response to the Colombian earthquake came together very quickly. The service was called *Oracion de Esperanza y Fe*, Prayers of Hope and Faith. In preparing the service I found myself struggling not with just by a lack of Spanish but with the lack of a sense of what to say. The words “hope and faith” turned me around. “Faith” brought me back to “Faith of our Fathers,” a favorite hymn of my childhood. The first and last verses speak about a faith that both sustains us through adversity and compels us to act. I share them with you. (The inclusive language version uses “founders.” For the traditional words, see Hymn 558.)

Faith of our founders, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our founders, holy faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our founders, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows how,
By kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our founders, holy faith,
We will be true to thee till death.