## "Hero" by The Makepeace Brothers

Break the rhythm! its harder than hell To be the courage to follow yourself To declare your name as one and the same With the whole human race

That is the noble,
That is the wise,
That is the human,
That is the kind of hero we need

To give peace a chance with all of your worth To breathe forgiving breath back to the earth Beyond the dream, to throw your own love Before hard bullets silence the last dove

This is the noble,
This is the wise,
This is the human,
This is the kind of hero we need

Noble. Wise. Human-kind. Noble. Wise. Human-kind.

Louder than voices, deeper than words
The river is raging with or without this verse
Millions of people are out in the streets
Millions of people refuse to be meek

These are the noble,
These are the wise,
These are the human,
These are the kind of hero we need

You are the noble, You are the wise, You are the human, You are the kind of hero we need

Prayer Leader:

Ginny May Drotar 3/8/2022

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Hope Lives in the Light



Allison Kriel



Our prayer is characterized by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence

## Renew · Refresh · Refocus

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## To Ponder: from Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope by Joan Chittister

The important things in life, one way or another, leave us all marked and scarred. We call it memory. We can never stop remembering our triumphs. We may never stop regretting our losses. Some of them can mark us with bitterness, but all of them can, if we allow them, mark us with wisdom. They transform us from our small puny self-centered selves into people of compassion. For the first time, we understand the fearful and the sinful and the exhausted. They have become us and we have become them as well. We recognize the down-and-out in the street who mirror our despair. We commiserate with the anger of the marginalized. We identify with the invisibility of the outcast. We can finally hear the rage of the forgotten. We are transformed. Then and only then can the world really hope that we ourselves are worth having hope in. Then and only then can we claim authentic power, break the barriers of isolation, transcend limitations and find the hope that emerges out of struggle, refuses to give into despair and lives in us. Struggle is a cycle that threatens to splinter our souls into shambles and despair. Hope is a legacy that emerges in response to each struggle's deceptions -- that change is destructive, that we are alone, that God has deserted us, that we are unequal to the task, that we cannot go another step, that our scars have forever left us unfit.

Hope is not a denial of the reality of pain. Hope is a series of small actions that transform darkness into light. Hope is not something to be found outside us. It lies in the spiritual life we cultivate within. The whole purpose of wrestling with God is to be transformed into the self we are meant to become, to step outside the confines of our false securities and allow our creating God to go on creating. In us.

**Reading:** from Ladder to the Light by Steven Charleston, Choctaw elder and Episcopal bishop

## The Inner Sanctuary of Spirit Speaks to Us of Hope

In these troubled times, I know a place where fear and uncertainty cannot come.

Where confidence and hope shines brightly, where there is room for every person, of every condition to gather in safety and strength.

The princes of power who strut the stage may rail against the others - the many others - they seek to shun from the equal embrace of freedom, but in My Heart is a sanctuary for each forgotten soul.

No truth will be swept away, no justice will be lost, no mercy gone ungiven, for I keep them all here in My Heart.

There they are secure until once more they are released to join what I know is in your heart as well: an outpouring of love, a fulfillment of the prophecy you already read in these few simple words.

It is this hope you will bring to others, the hope I have given to you.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...