

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off
Proverbs 23:18.

Bernard Kellett



"Christian optimism is not a sugary optimism, nor is it a mere human confidence that everything will turn out all right. It is an optimism that sinks its roots into an awareness of our freedom, and the sure knowledge of the power of grace." Saint Josemaria Escriva

Entrance Antiphon: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.*

Mass Readings

First Reading Micah 5 1-4

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 79

Response

God of hosts, bring us back;

Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading Hebrews 10 5-10

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord:

Let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1 39-44

Memorial Acclamation:

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free

stpius X, Alderley Ede, Cheshire.



Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday Cycle C, 2021 Weekly reflection.

Optimistic?

When we celebrated Christmas in 2019, we could never have predicted that in a matter of a few weeks we would be engulfed by a global pandemic unique in our lifetime. We never thought when the first lockdown was announced in March 2020 that the residual effects would still be affecting our lives nearly two years later. This period has tested the optimism of even the most ardent “glass half full” amongst us.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” **Joshua 1-9.**

Rachel and Gregory Popcak wrote in “Authentic Optimism” that it sometimes feels hard to be optimistic in the midst of stressful situations but that is due to a misunderstanding of what true optimism really means. Optimism isn’t rooted in wishing our problems away or telling ourselves lies about how things aren’t as bad as they seem. It is rooted in the fact that at the beginning of time, God had a plan for the world and that, in spite of sin thwarting that plan in the present, God’s plan will be restored through grace at the end of time. As St. Paul reminds us in **Romans 8:28** all things work to the good for those who love God.

Randy Alcorn says in “Godly Optimism” that if we build our lives on the redemptive work of Christ, we should all be optimists because our painful experiences in life are but temporary setbacks. Our pain and suffering may not be relieved in this life, but they will certainly be relieved in the next. That is Christ’s promise -no more death or pain. He will wipe away our tears **Revelations 21:4**. He took our sufferings on Himself so that one day He might remove all suffering from us which Alcorn describes as the biblical foundation for our optimism.