**Tuesday 25th August**

Hebrews 10: 22-25

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

How are your hope levels fairing in this season? I’m sure that most of us have struggled to remain hopeful throughout these days of uncertainty and challenge. Is it possible to remain hopeful in dark times? The writer to the Hebrews exhorts us to ‘hold unswervingly to the hope we profess’. Christian hope is different to the way in which we often use the word hope in English. Hope can be rather a wishy-washy sentiment, more like wishing for something unlikely to occur. But the hope that we have in Jesus is a hope that is steadfast and certain.

* It is the knowledge that there is more to life than what we see in the here and now.
* It is being convinced that God is alive and well and doing His work on the earth, bringing healing, new life, restoration, peace, resurrection…today.
* It is the understanding that there is glory to come.
* It is the certainty that God is going to make everything right one day.
* It is the profound belief that Jesus has done everything necessary for us to know God now and spend eternity with Him.

And so much more! There is a ‘now’ and a ‘not yet’ element to Christian hope. There can be a danger that when we know Jesus, and our eternity is assured, we sit back and wait it out! But we are supposed to carry hope in the world, hence we need to spur one another on towards love and good deeds, bringing Jesus’ hope to all that we meet, as the Day approaches.

*Thank you, Jesus, for the great hope that we have in you! We pray that you would show us each day practical ways in which we can be hope-bearers, carrying that hope into a broken world. In your Name. Amen*

