

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

[Romans 15:13]

e are living in unprecedented days as we witness the rapid spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus and experience its dramatic effect on daily life. The devastating impact has seen fatalities, economic downturn, financial turbulence, travel restrictions, social isolation and a panicked climate of fear. How should the Church respond in days like these? Hope 15:13, inspired by the verse in Romans, is one way. In a world gripped with fear, we have a message of hope, joy and peace – a message that needs to be heard and a message that needs to be proclaimed. In Christ we can be secure in the knowledge that God is with us, both now in this lifetime and in eternity to come. This is truly good news when so many are desperately searching for assurance.

So, how does Hope 15:13 work?



PRAY

Each day pray by yourself or with others, either online or in person.

PRAYER TIPS

- That an effective vaccine for coronavirus will be produced.
- For God to pour out His comforting grace on those left ill and isolated by the disease.
- For strength, protection and wisdom for the medical staff treating the very sick.
- For a spiritual awakening amongst unbelievers to their need for God.
- That the Church would look to God's Word for guidance and hope.

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' **Philippians 4:6**



PREPARE

Consider how you can protect and support others.

PREPARE TIPS

- Keep up to date with the advice from the government.
- Consider who in your community is at risk from isolation.
- What practical or emotional support could you give them.

'Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.' **Romans 12:17-18**



PROCLAIM

Seek to share this hope as you encounter people in the everyday.

PROCLAIM TIPS

- Look for the Holy Spirit to open doors in conversation.
- · Prayerfully listen to people's concerns about the virus.
- Share the hope you have in Christ and the reassurance it gives in this crisis.
- Offer to pray for God's peace for the person if led to do so.
- Share the hope you have in Christ in practical ways wherever possible.

'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.' 1 Peter 3:15

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"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

[Romans 10:15]



