



Where is the hope?

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I'm thinking about the turmoil of life around us right now, especially with the election coming up next week. A passage from a sermon by Diana Butler Bass this past Sunday on blind Bartimaeus from Mark 10:46-52 describes the emotions we may be experiencing:

Truthfully, I feel blind. I have no idea what is coming. I'm living in complete uncertainty. It doesn't feel good. I'm exhausted by uncertainty. I'm working hard fighting against what I fear is coming down the road. And yes, uncertainty makes me fearful. I'm anxious for the future of a church that I'm not sure has the resources to face this future; I'm fearful for the future of a nation that seems willing to risk the possibility of a truly inclusive and pluralistic democracy. Events seem to be spinning beyond control, and not only political events. Hurricanes in the mountains, bombs in the Middle East, images of people who don't exist flooding social media with lies about things that never happened, courts corrupted, compassion at a premium, families divided — the cacophony of a nation in crisis, a din of despair.

[\[Access the article here.\]](#)

We never know what the future holds, whether we believe there are good things in store or worry about what the world will be like a week from now.

In this, where is our hope? Our hope now as always is in God. Not in politics, not the stock market, not military defenses. I don't say this blithely as a panacea for all our woes. Nor is it a wish for a rosy future, that God will miraculously make everything well in the coming weeks and months. Hope is not wishing. A wish is projecting *our* desires onto a future we imagine. Hope is trusting God with the future however it unfolds. Hope is believing that God who's spirit in the beginning moved over chaos to call forth Creation can equally recreate the chaos of our times into a future we cannot now see. God is the source of hope.

Our Presbytery Gathering on Saturday, November 9th will be only 4 days after the election. Expecting that the results of the election could still be uncertain, perhaps even traumatic for some, the Planning Commission has changed the order for the day so that we begin with worship. Together we will come into God's presence to acknowledge our fears, pray for our nation, and experience God's comfort and assurance. Afterward we will gather in small groups for conversations about where our presbytery is and where it is going.

May both the worship and the conversations move us to renewed hope in God and all that God has in store.

Grace and Peace.

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