

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 Pax Christi Advent Morning Prayer

This prayer was used for Advent Morning of Reflection

Hosted by Pax Christi San Antonio and Region

The theme centered around the Scriptures of Advent –Cycle C (both Sunday and Weekday)

God of Hope and Hopelessness (Ludwig Beethoven J. Noya)

Dear God of Hope and Hopelessness,

We thank you for introducing us to hope

For an excitement to look forward to tomorrow

For an expectation for something good that is about to happen

For a confidence that the best is yet to come.

Yet we thank you for being with us in our hopelessness

For your presence at times of uncertainty

When we are feeling anxious about approaching tomorrow

When we have sufficient difficulties for today

When we feel we cannot handle the issues that tomorrow offers

When we cannot even envision how such difficulties could be resolved

When we do not know what to expect

When we cannot even imagine what to look forward to

When we cannot afford the privilege of knowing or seeing what “best” means.

We thank you for probing us to interrogate hope

for a sensitivity to perceive when hope is used to perpetuate oppression

for thoughtful receptiveness, when hope is used to maintain status quo

when the hope for a better tomorrow becomes an excuse

when the hope for a bright future entices us to do nothing in the present

when hope becomes simply a trope

for the vulnerable to cope and be doped.

Continuation.....

We thank you for teaching us to embrace hopelessness
for and understanding that the opposite of hope is not despair
for an understanding that the opposite of hope is desperation
desperation for justice
desperation for liberation
desperation for oppression to stop, right here, and right now
desperation to refuse an excuse
desperation to reject a mere trope for us to cope and be doped
desperation to act, right here, and right now.

Dear God of Hopelessness and Hope
We thank you for introducing us to hopelessness
for a desperation to step up
for an understanding to stand up
even when no hope seems to be on the horizon.

Thank you for your presence
both in our hopefulness and in our hopelessness.'

Amen.

Ludwig Noya completed his term as Instructor in Old Testament in May. During the 2023-24 he completed an externship here (Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary) as part of his PhD program at Vanderbilt University.

For further reading on “embracing hopelessness,” see Miguel A. De La Torre, *Embracing Hopelessness* (Minneapolis Fortress Press, 2017).