

Today's readings give us hope – for those who sit in darkness, light has dawned! For those who have cried in anguish, there are now songs of joy! Life is a journey. Life shifts. Always. For all of us.

Today's readings offer us a challenge – be united in mind and heart. What unites us? Commonalities, shared experiences of life. Remembering who we belong to - that we are Christ's alone.

Today's readings call us to repentance - a time for opening our hearts more fully to the God who loves us so. It is a time to be reconciled with one another – and allow ourselves to be sent as disciples - teachers and preachers and healers of this good news: God is very near.

As we take these readings to heart this day, how can we proclaim the good news that God is near to you and me, and each and every one? Can we be more understanding in times of discord? Can we trust God more in times of darkness?

Let us pray with and for one another that we might be united in mind and heart as we respond to God's call to be a people of hope, a people of joy.