



Podcast 11: What is in your hands?: Crafting hope with churches in a climate crisis

Hannah Fremont-Brown, Steven van den Heuvel and Emma Pavey

What resonated most with you in listening to this podcast?

What gave you pause for thought?

Some quotes to reflect on:

- ✱ Hannah: “That question from Bonhoeffer around where do we find Jesus today for me speaks of something for us as a church that’s not just about a kind of, a saviour complex in our engagement with justice, a desire that we come in and have the solutions but actually a recognition that it is in the struggle for justice, in standing in solidarity with people who are marginalised by injustice, that we encounter Christ today. “
- ✱ Hannah: “Hope almost feels like the practice and justice is the destination...that actually justice is a characteristic of what we believe God’s kingdom come on earth looks like...Hope is the practice of believing that actually we are working towards that tangible reality.”
- ✱ Steven: “I think that hope says something essential about us as human beings – the French philosopher Gabriel Marcel speaks about human being as a ‘homo viator’, as a hoping being... And therefore we need...a justice-oriented hope, a hope that is filled with meaning, and fortunately the Christian story has a lot to offer there.”
- ✱ Hannah: “John Wesley talks about the ways and means of grace – how do we encounter the love of God – and that is by encounter with the other and engagement with the world...so for me crafting hope is very much something we do...[It] encourages and strengthens perhaps something that is inherent in our belief system... [that] needs to continually be worked at.”
- ✱ Steven: “I think it is a profound testimony to hope, when you start doing things differently, when you dare to hope in a context of despair, that is itself an example of the Christian witness in today’s world, I’d say. Dare to be different by not being despairing but by putting your hope into action for the good of all.”
- ✱ Hannah: “In the old testament, God asks Moses, ‘What is in your hands?’ and that’s part of the start of his journey with God. And so we often ask, ‘What is in your hands? What do you have before you that can be used for active hope?’ That might feel really small or actually you might discover that you have a whole array of resources before you, but starting with what’s in your hands and using that as an opportunity to practice doing something differently.”

The Susanna Wesley Foundation



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Resources:

You can find the website of the major interdisciplinary Hope Project, which Steven is involved in, at www.thehopeproject.nl.

You can also access the open access publication Historical and Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Hope at link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-46489-9.

Find out more about the Joint Public Issues Team at jpit.uk.