

HOPE MEDITATION

Gatherer of all good memories,
The spirits of many ancestors join us today in this sacred place.
We come to celebrate a history,
To gather the memories of many decades.

You have been a companion for each one,
Every grandfather and grandmother,
Every student and teacher,
Every single person and married couple,
Every father and mother, sister and brother.

You have been the breath of life from ancient times up thru this very moment.
You, O God, who have been present to everyone who has birthed a child, wedded a lover,
or buried a dear one.

You have sown the deep seeds of faith in the waters of countless baptisms.
Kept alive our parishes that together represent thousands of years of faith, hope and love.
You have done this, O God, through the fidelity of those who have prayed within the walls of our
churches,
And through the generosity of those who have served generation after generation.

While our world is weary and worn with pain,
May we take hope in the strong faith of our ancestors
And the friendships formed within our parish communities,
Giving us renewed energy to continue their legacy of faith
No matter what it takes or where it leads us.

We thank you, gracious God, for our places of worship and community
Which have nourished so many souls and provided a source of nurturing faith
For all who come seeking spiritual life.

Those who came before us believed in your constant presence, accepted your grace,
Shared your love, and celebrated your life with one another.
May we do the same, and leave here a hope-filled people,
Knowing that their devotion lives on in us and that your will, dear God, will make itself
known.

Just as your humble servant, Julian of Norwich proclaimed, so too may our spirits
proclaim:

“All shall be well.....all shall be well.....all manner of things shall be well”.