

What gives me hope?

My first answer is: my sons. Loving men, each living his dream. And in doing what brings joy to his soul, carries that joy into the world.

Other inspirations of hope?

Waking to birds singing in the morning, blue sky and sunshine, the lush green of summer
or

The crisp air of winter, snow frosting evergreens, Christmas lights coloring the night.

There is a deep knowing in my soul that all will be well.

No matter our circumstances, we are carried in His hands. Having lived through my own set of loss, illness, struggle, I know that God always brings us through the darkness. His light might be a star twinkling in the night sky, kindness in a stranger's words, or the love given by family and friends. It's there – daily – hourly. I think we don't always feel that abundant love, but I know it's there, and when I stop for a few minutes, take a deep breath and open my heart to hear, see, feel.....it's there.

During this time of crisis, we have a chance to bring hope into the world with our prayers, our knowing and our love. By staying connected virtually or with distancing or by sending a note of cheer or making a phone call to say "hi", we bring hope.

What gives me hope? Each of us.

Connie Gerke