

Advent Reflection

December 1, 2020

*HOPE*

**John 10:11-18 NRSV**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

*Reflection by Nona*

We find our hope in the birth of the Christ Child--in the good Shepherd. As we prepare for his birth, we reflect and give thanks that Jesus came and walked among us, and he loved us so much that he willingly laid down his life for us. Truly a good shepherd to his sheep. Not only does he know us, we have the opportunity to know him. All we have to do is listen for his voice and, likewise, he will hear ours.

Thank you, Christ Jesus, for loving us more than we can even imagine! When we are lost and hope seems difficult to find during these challenging days, help us to stop and listen. We know that we will hear your voice. We ask that you calm our fears and remind us that we find our hope in the Christ child. We ask these things in your precious name. Amen.