

Grace to you...and Peace

Hope

a poem for Easter

by Jeff Bergeson

The hope found in Jesus,
The hope of St. Paul,
The hope in the Bible,
Writ through it all,

His life shows God's love.
His death brings us peace.
His conquest gives hope.
His promise won't cease

So trust in his promise,
And live in his light:
Forgive all who wrong you
And "fight the good fight."

Is hope that's unseen,
But not quite unheard—
The strange Gospel song,
A soft-singing bird.

To give us new life,
And show us the way.
To shepherd his flock,
Close by us, he'll stay.

Be patient in suff'ring.
Be gracious and kind.
Be faithful and humble.
Be peaceful, benign.

A small, planted seed
At just the right time.
The hope of a Life
To change hearts and minds.

And what is this hope—
This life that he speaks—
In sadness and suff'ring,
Thro' days, nights and weeks?

Be gentle toward all—
The Lord has drawn near!
Be slow to be heard,
But be quick to hear.

What kind of a life
Does this Gospel sound?
Up high in the sky,
Is that where it's found?

This long promised hope,
To answer the question,
Has little to do
With 'going to heaven.'

No need to be fearful.
No need to despair.
No need to be bitter.
Let Hope be your air.

This hope that Christ lived,
E'en when on that cross,
Says, "Father, Forgive,"
To burn up our dross!

The hope of the Gospel,
Upon close reflection,
Is o'ercoming death:
It is Resurrection!

Let Love be your pathway
And Truth be your guide.
Let Joy be your heart's song.
This hope, never hide!

It's hope for a life
Unafraid of the grave.
It's hope found in Christ,
Who came here to save

In Christ we're assured
That this hope is certain!
He sings it to us,
He's pulled back the curtain.

For Christ is our hope,
And Christ is our song.
O'er death he's victorious!
To him, we belong!

And give us true life—
Abundant, complete,
Eternal, and righteous,
Pure, holy and sweet.

Renewing our minds,
And op'ning our hearts:
His own resurrection
Was only the start!

And since we are his,
And since he's been raised,
We have this hope, too!
The Lord's name be praised!

This life is lived fully
In God's only Son,
Christ Jesus, our Lord,
The Victorious One!

The Firstborn, is Christ,
From all of the dead!
Of the world, he is Lord.
For the church, he's the Head.

Because Christ is raised,
So too will we be!
So live without fear,
Victoriously!

All praise to the Father, in heaven above. All praise to the Son, who shows us God's love.
All praise to the Spirit, who God's love imparts. All praise to you, Lord! Abide in our hearts!
Amen!