

# HAVE THIS HOPE

Revelation 7:2-17 | 1 John 3:1-3 | Matthew 5:1-12

A \_\_\_\_\_ center

To be like \_\_\_\_\_

Into the \_\_\_\_\_

The hope is \_\_\_\_\_

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

I hear a lot lately about how people are feeling very frayed. Not, necessarily, afraid (although that is there too). Just frayed. Torn. It is hard right now. All of the neat little divisions that people used to put up between their spiritual health and emotional health and physical health are wearing down. Many people are really struggling with that, and many more probably should be struggling with that – it is always easier to look out and see what is wrong with others than inward on ourselves. I get that. Especially when we feel frayed and we're trying to hold on to so much and hold so many things together. This is indeed very much like the world that John lived in when 1 John was written. I would *strongly* encourage you to read the five chapters of 1 John during these days. Let this letter be a comfort to you in the midst of uncertainty.

Reflect:

Find a section – a paragraph, a verse, a word – from 1 John and dwell on it. Repeat it, think on it, speak to others about it. Think about what the paragraph or verse or word make you feel. What it makes you imagine. Offer up those feelings, thoughts and imagination to God in prayer.

Respond:

Where does this word speak to our own failures as individuals, a congregation, a society? How does it invite our repentance?

Remember:

“See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” 1 John 3:1a