



| **Friday, December 7**

No Fear

For Thou, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

Psalm 7:5

How many times have you sung “Jesus Loves Me, this I know...” Too many to count, I’m sure. But do you remember the second verse? Let me refresh your memory: “Jesus loves me, he who died, Heaven’s gates to open wide. He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.” (Written by Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859.)

I think that many people, both very young through very old, don’t remember to keep this hope and this promise in the forefront of their minds. A lot of people think of hope as wishful thinking, but that isn’t what the Bible means by hope. “The Bible means that hope is a firm assurance regarding things that are unclear and unknown. Hope leads to comfort because of our knowledge and the promise of the resurrection.” (Bible.org)

As a child, and now as an adult, I was never afraid of death. I was blessed to have loving Christian parents who taught me from my earliest memory, through music and prayer, that I had nothing to fear if I had Jesus in my heart. At the end of every day we’d pray together:

*Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. Amen.*

There is no fear when there’s hope in our hearts, when we have the firm assurance that we have a forever home waiting for us!

*Precious Lord, we are grateful for your gift of Jesus. Thank you for sending him into the world, for giving us hope in our hearts, and for giving us your promise of eternal life. We eagerly await his coming, especially during this holy and joyful season of Advent.
Amen.*

- Paula Monahan