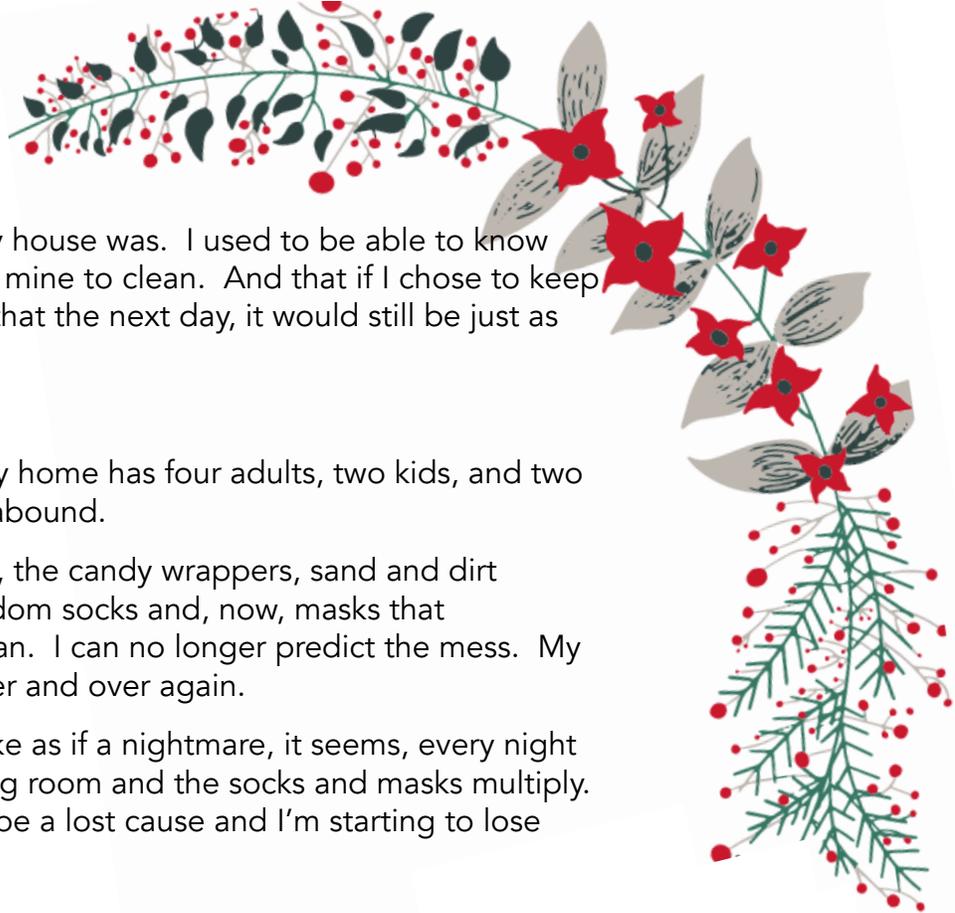


# ADVENT DEVOTIONAL HOPE IN A TIME OF COVID A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

PSALMS 130:5

I WAIT FOR THE LORD, MY SOUL  
WAITS, AND IN GOD'S WORD I HOPE.



I used to be able to control how clean my house was. I used to be able to know that if I chose to make a mess, that it was mine to clean. And that if I chose to keep everything pristinely clean, I could know that the next day, it would still be just as clean.

This is no longer true.

I have lost the illusion of control. Now my home has four adults, two kids, and two dogs in the country where sand and dirt abound.

Between the craft supplies, random tools, the candy wrappers, sand and dirt tracked in the door, the dog hair, the random socks and, now, masks that multiply....I can no longer control the clean. I can no longer predict the mess. My life is a cycle of cleaning. On repeat. Over and over again.

No matter how much cleaning we do. Like as if a nightmare, it seems, every night the dust bunnies throw a party in the living room and the socks and masks multiply. Having a regularly clean house seems to be a lost cause and I'm starting to lose hope.

The story of our lives. Right?

The messiness of life is often out of our control. Although sometimes of our own creation, the messiness of our lives comes through living in this imperfect world we live in. This pandemic is certainly a big uncontrollable mess we are living in.

As we wade through the mess, trying to clean as we go, God wades through with us. God knows the mess we live in, because God chose to come live in this mess with us through baby Jesus.

As we wait in the mess, we do have hope. Our hope is in God's word, God's word that God is working for our good, loving us unconditionally, and always and forever forgiving us.



2100 Riverview Drive  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
(320) 632-6667  
[firstserv@flclittlefalls.org](mailto:firstserv@flclittlefalls.org)  
[www.flclittlefalls.org](http://www.flclittlefalls.org)

GOD OF HOPE,  
WE GIVE YOU THANKS THAT NO  
MATTER HOW MESSY MY LIFE GETS,  
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I STRUGGLE  
TO CLEAN IT UP, YOU ARE HERE WITH  
ME AND LOVE ME DESPITE IT ALL.  
AMEN.