

Hope Presbyterian Church
Sermon-Based Bible Study Group



July 30, 2023 - "Comfort" - #3 in the series Anthem of Hope

Texts Referenced: Isaiah 49:13, Matthew 11:28 NIV

1. What stood out to you about the message?
2. Consider what it means to experience healing and what it means to be cured.
 - How are being healed and being cured not the same?
 - How do these differences influence your thinking about mental illness?
3. **Read Isaiah 49:13.**
 - Think about the larger context of this verse - God's comforting promises to the Israelites who are exiled in a foreign land.
 - What can this verse teach us about the role of comfort for someone experiencing a sense of exile because of mental illness?
4. Consider how the church can offer a place of community, belonging, and physical/emotional care to those with mental illness.
 - How does the *practice of hospitality* inform our understanding of community?
 - What might the experience of a community look or feel like to someone with mental illness?
5. **Read Matthew 11:28.**
 - How does this verse help us understand the role of rest in the process of healing?
 - Why might it be difficult for the church to be a place of rest for those needing healing, including those with mental illness?
 - How can we extend our reach at Hope to offer community and healing to those with mental illness?
6. How can we pray for you?