

# Blue Christmas

## Reflections

**How do we find hope in a wintery season?** Fr Michael Himes reminds us that the ground of our hope is that God is endlessly reaching out to us, endlessly supporting, endlessly creating. His [talk on this topic](#) is well worth listening to. He talks about why the virtue of hope is so important in Christian life.

“Despair is a constant possibility. One of the greatest blessings of life is to get up in the morning with your thoughts turned out instead of in, to say ‘Today I get to do that, today I get to see her..’. The need to turn out, to give oneself away grows constantly throughout our lives. I’m beginning to suspect that it may be even more important as we get older. As we get older, it becomes easier to whittle the ties down and connections may not be as strong and, bit by bit, the mind turns in on itself. To turn oneself out is what hope is. It’s about reaching out because we are completely confident that God is always reaching towards us.”

Canon Giles Fraser talked about **his own experience of finding hope in a wintery season** on [Radio 4’s Thought for the Day at Christmas](#).

“There is something important that orthodox Christian theology has to say to me when I am trapped in darkness – and that is: we are human beings are not supposed to be self-saving creatures. Much of religious life is constituted by the quality and courage of one’s waiting. Faith is often a determination to sit in the darkness without cheap consolation and to wait it out, to wait for the dawn to break. Like the story in Luke’s gospel of Simeon and Anna who hung around in the Jerusalem Temple for years, with little idea of what they were waiting for. Eventually they found their light in the appearance of a baby boy, recently born in a Bethlehem shed, who was being taken to the Temple for the very first time.”