



November 28, 2018

I'VE BEEN DOWN HERE BEFORE AND I KNOW THE WAY OUT

Hope is the theme of the first Sunday in Advent. On the Advent wreath, we light the candle of hope to light our way through this season of waiting. What we are waiting and hoping for is the birth of Jesus, in whom God became human and lived among us.

On The West Wing, one of my favorite television shows, Leo McGarry tells this story to a friend who is in the midst of grief and struggle:

"This guy's walking down the street when he falls in a hole. The walls are so steep he can't get out. A doctor passes by and the guy shouts up, 'Hey you. Can you help me out?'" The doctor writes a prescription, throws it down in the hole and moves on.

Then a priest comes along and the guy shouts up, 'Father, I'm down in this hole can you help me out?'" The priest writes out a prayer, throws it down in the hole and moves on.

Then a friend walks by, 'Hey, Joe, it's me can you help me out?'" And the friend jumps in the hole. Our guy says, 'Are you stupid? Now we're both down here.' The friend says, 'Yeah, but I've been down here before and I know the way out.'"

When we are in a hole that we don't know how to escape, we hope for someone who can meet us in any awful predicament to show us the way out.

Jesus has been down here before, and Jesus knows the way out.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister