

Harbinger of Hope
Reflections for Lent 2021
written/shared by
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This will be the first in a series of short reflections Jan Richardson and I will share with you. Jan and I will take turns writing them, and you will find something in your inbox every Thursday during Lent.

Harbinger of Hope is our theme. Harbinger – a rarely used word. I don't think I ever used it before, not even in preaching. But the alliteration speaks to me. My *Cage Canadian Dictionary* of 1983 says: *harbinger, -noun*, one that goes ahead to announce another's coming; *forerunner, -verb*, announce beforehand, announce.

When I picture in my mind 'forerunner of hope' or 'announcing hope' I see someone with great energy (after all we are talking about running). I, also, see someone with great voice, no whispering in the act of announcing. Hope in this image comes with great fanfare.

However, in this Lent of 2021 that a colleague of ours calls the 'Lentiest of Lents' great energy of hope is the last thing we may be able to muster. Bringing hope to the wilderness of yet another Lent with its uncertainties and restrictions, with its pain and grief, seems too much to ask.

But we do bring hope to every moment. Hope resides in us. Every breath is a forerunner of hope, for it announces life itself.

Take three slow and deep breaths and listen to hope.

Let us pray: Loving God, help us in "bringing hope to every task we do"*, help us in being fully alive to your world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessings
Barbara

*from 'I Am the Light of the World' Voices United 87.