

Be Still, My Country

by Jason Jedlinski

In Mark 9:23b, Jesus tells us all things are possible for the person who has faith.

During this difficult year, I've found comfort in the Zulu song [Thula sizwe](#), a revolutionary hymn popular during the fight against apartheid in South Africa.

Thula sizwe, ungabokhala, uJehova wakho uzokunqobela.

Hush nation, do not cry, our God will protect us.

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Imagine how impossible a multiracial, democratic election must have seemed, during decades of brutal segregation and violence in South Africa.

Yet people had faith, singing our God will protect us.



Women sing during a mass commemorating former South African president Nelson Mandela on December 8, 2013 in Soweto, near Johannesburg. (Photo by Pedro Ugarte / AFP)

Faith has been described as having the courage to let God have complete control, but don't mistake that for an invitation to sit still.

As Rev. Dwayne has reminded us, in a world that is increasingly scary, in a world that breeds fear, in a world of so much toxic division, we are called to be a people of courage. We are called to look fear in the face and act anyway. We are called to focus our eyes on Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, and trust in him to order our steps.

Eleanor Roosevelt described it this way: "You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stopped to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, I have lived through this horror and I can take the next thing that comes along. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

As a new year draws nigh; how are you being called to rise up, as a beloved and courageous child of God? What better future will you believe in, and how will you help God make it possible? Where will your faith carry you?