

## AT S9 E21 Hope in the Season of Summer \_mixdown

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Hi friends. This is our last episode of season nine. I know it's hard to believe it's gone by so fast, but we're not going to leave you hanging. So you don't have to worry about that. We're not going to do that to you. We want to invite you if you haven't done, to join our private Facebook group, we have lots of great discussions on there, and we have really amazing people. Well from all over the world, that just is a wonderful, wonderful community that we'd love to invite you to. We also want to invite you to maybe do one of our book studies. If you haven't done that, maybe get a group of friends together, do some journaling questions and just really get together this summer and make a journey, make a deeper journey. So we're not going to leave you hanging. If you are a Patreon subscriber, we have some special summer content just for you. So we think you're going to love it. So if you're not a Patreon subscriber yet you might want to join. So you get that Hello and welcome to the Abiding Together Podcast. Abiding Together is a place where you can find connection, rest and encouragement on your journey with Jesus Christ. My name is Sister Miriam James Heidland and every week I'm joined by two of my very dearest friends, Heather Khym and Michelle Benzinger. This podcast is born out of our friendship and all that the Lord is doing in our lives. You hear us laugh. You hear us cry. You hear us share very vulnerably, and you hear us talk about the things that we're still learning along the way. And you're most welcome to join us. You can find out all of our information on our podcast episodes on [abidingtogetherpodcast.com](http://abidingtogetherpodcast.com), but for now, grab a cup of coffee, settle in and welcome home.

Hello, and welcome to this week's episode of the Abiding Together Podcast. The very last episode of season nine, I know

**Heather Khym:** Do we have a little confetti poppers and we can pop them?

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Tthis is this episode 21 of this just the season, right? I mean, it's just the season.

**Michelle Benzinger:** I don't even know how many episodes we've done and I think it's a million.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** I'm pretty sure it's a million. So as we were going to talk about the right to hope today, which is a beautiful part of a beautiful homily from Pope Francis that we're going to dive into today and we hope it just blesses you and continues to unfold the entire summer long. But before we dive in Michelle Benzinger, how are you on this last episode? How are you doing with everything?

**Michelle Benzinger:** I am good today. I am good. I am. I feel, it feels kind of weird to be the last episode. I feel like it's, you know, the last day of school, like, Oh my gosh, it's out for the summer. Here we go. But I will miss recording with you all, but I've already started going ahead for season 10, like doing the content. So I'm kind of like, okay. Moving ahead. I know

**Heather Khym:** We don't even know about this yet.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** 'm just over here having a keifer drink. I don't even know

**Heather Khym:** Overachiever. She's such a keener.

**Michelle Benzinger:** Now you see who is the brains around this place? Just kidding. I don't think anyone would ever accuse me of being the brains.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** You're the creative genius. You're the engine, the creative engine behind this glorious thing. I think they can. I think I can. I think I can

**Michelle Benzinger:** And y'all are okay here we go.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** No, I will miss you too. I will certainly miss you guys. Like it's one of the great things of us, like having the quote unquote, excuse to get together. So I'll have to make other excuses to get together because that's it.

**Heather Khym:** Definitely other excuses that's for sure.

**Michelle Benzinger:** We do have a little trip that we'll get to see each other in July. We actually actually may get to see Heather in real person, not transfigured on zoom, but in person

**Heather Khym:** Oh it is happening regardless of what is going on in the world

**Michelle Benzinger:** not transfigured through zoom, but in actual person

**Heather Khym:** we're actually gonna be there. Hug one another.

**Michelle Benzinger:** You know, I actually may cuddle. Let's not go too far.

**Heather Khym:** Like I haven't missed you that much.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Revival only goes so far people. I mean, let's not, let's not get too ahead of ourselves.

**Heather Khym:** It'll be great. And speaking of our, you know, topic for today, I am just holding onto that hope of seeing you guys soon. That'll be glorious, but so glad this was a great season. So impressed with our listeners, their engagement in the Facebook group, all that stuff. So it's been really good. I feel like we've covered so many good topics. It's been powerful to just hear how the Lord has been moving in all of that. So super grateful.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** I agree too. And I think it's really beautiful to see how the Holy spirit has placed certain topics on our hearts that we've talked about. And just like you said, Heather, the resonance with all of you guys, all of our listeners, and we've had experiences where after a podcast episode, we were like, wow, that was something like, we're the Holy spirit clearly took over in certain regards and, and then you see the response from it. So we just feel grateful to be led by the Holy spirit in our own, you know, small ways.

**Heather Khym:** Yeah. And it's not like Michelle had mentioned in the last episode, it's not like we're having these comprehensive, totally comprehensive conversations about the topics. I mean, we have 30 minutes and sometimes yeah. There's topics that deserve much more time, but we're just trying to. Just be moved by the Holy spirit for that 30 minutes and what we're talking about. And I personally have been very blessed by it. So, and I look forward to more conversations. That's the beauty of friendship is that not all of them are recorded and we just get to be friends and hang out and so

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** yes, yes we do. Yes, we do. So we were thinking of how can we just enter, how can we encounter the Lord in this last episode? And what would. Well, you know, what would be a blessing or what's what would be something that will continue to unfold? And during Holy week I love the Magnificat. I was subscribed to the Magnificat. My mom does, for me, she sends it to me every month, but yeah. And so during all that

**Michelle Benzinger:** Stop right there, Sister is obsessed with her. Magnificat like, whenever she comes to visit, she lost it once when I was with her. And you thought that she might've lost Jesus in the temple

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** That may have happened. Michelle, that could have happened. I'm not saying it did or didn't, but I may not. Okay. Go ahead. You're so funny. I love the Magnificat because it has the daily readings in it. It has the reflections and things like that. And during the Holy week, they have a special Holy week edition after the Easter masses, the meditation for the day was an excerpt from the Holy fathers from 2020 and the Holy father's homily for the Easter vigil and the title of that, they title it was called the right to hope. And I just, can I just read a part of it and that's what we're going to talk about today. And here's part of an excerpt from the homily. He says this. He says at Dawn, the women went to the tomb there. The angel says to them, do not be afraid. He is not here for, he has risen. They hear the words of life, even as they stand before a tomb. And then they meet Jesus. The giver of all hope who confirms the message and says to them, do not be afraid. Do not be afraid, do not yield to fear. This is the message of hope and it is addressed to us today. And I just, I mean, there's so much in that that I absolutely love, but I particularly the line that strikes me today, as I read this is they hear the words of life even as they stand before the tomb, you know, and I wonder for us, how many of us in our life, you know, we. We are standing before tombs in our life where we're standing before the unknown or we're standing before what seems to be dead. And there's a proclamation of the good news there where Jesus says, you do not have to be afraid. He's not here. You don't have to seek the dead among the living. Do so, do not yield to that. So maybe Heather, what for you, as you kind of hear this, and there's the homily as much more, we'll put a link to the homily that you can read yourself, but that's the message of hope of, of not yielding to fear and living in that place. What does that speak to, to you, Heather?

**Heather Khym:** Yeah, to me, I'm just drawn to the truth that God is faithful in his promises. To me, it's about hope is about holding on to the promises that God has made because he makes them all throughout scripture. He's making promises to us over and over and over again. He's talking about his faithfulness, that he has a plan for us, that he will not abandon us, that we are his people, that we are not lost, that he is going to be an anchor. This hope is going to be an anchor for our soul, that there is a heaven for us that he's preparing a place for us. There's all of these promises that, you know, when I lose sight of that, that's when I lose my hope. That's when despair creeps in. When I think that God, isn't going to show up that he doesn't care that he's not going to change my circumstances, that everything is lost, that everything sucks. Like that's where I go. That's where I lose my hope. But when I really am hanging onto the promises of God, and when I received the gift of faith to believe that what he says is true. Like that's where my hope feels very, very strong. And when you have that, like in the midst of promises like that, it doesn't matter really what life deals you, because those don't go anywhere. They don't change. Like they're the, the promises of something greater than the tragedies of this life. So how about you, Michelle?

**Michelle Benzinger:** Well, it's interesting you what stands out to you when you read it? And we have read this similar, gone through Pope Francis as Easter dresses before. And then when you read something again, or like really meditate on the Easter story in scripture, it depends where you are. You know, like you can read the same scriptures throughout the liturgy, you know, year after year, but where you are personally, you know, something different stands out. And at the very beginning of this. Because this has been a season where I've stepped back to really learn how to rest. And like, I like to say let the land lie fallow is so interesting. Just the very beginning line. After the Sabbath, the women went to the tomb is the very first line of this document. And I realized like they observed the Sabbath, they rested and here it is. Good Friday happens, you know, Jesus, the women were right there at the foot of the cross and experienced the most excruciating thing in their life. And the next day they observed the Sabbath and rested, you know, even though their hearts were probably in anguish, even though they were probably questioning the Lord and they sat and rested and waited upon the Lord. And then at Dawn, the next morning, they went to the tomb. At the very first light that they could. But what is it about the Sabbath? What is it about resting in God's promises even when you cannot see how the outcome will come, what is it about waiting for the dawn waiting for that first light in areas? And I was just thinking to myself in areas of life, like we cannot see. The light, we haven't experienced a ton yet. We just want those first glimpses of dawn. Like my favorite time of the day, one of my favorite times of the day is sunrise and sunset. I love both of them because I love the colors, but that sunrise, when you see the sun coming in the beautiful colors that are illuminated and all of that, but in the darkness go away. There's something about each of us that like exhales another day. And either we can approach the another day with dread or we can approach the another day with, okay, God's mercy is renewed every morning. We start again, we begin again and hope is on the horizon, even when it feels like it's so far away. So it's taking that posture of hope. You know, it's a posture, it's a discipline, it's a virtue, it's all of these things. But what does that look like? And for me, I've just been really pondering. Do I've spent the majority of my life working to get to a place of rest instead of working from a place of rest.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** That's a good word,

**Michelle Benzinger:** being that around and learning. Really like rest physically, but rest in his presence. And like you were saying, Heather, rest in his promises that he is who he says he is. He's going to do what he says he do. He's got it.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** I just want you to know Michelle Benzinger. I refrained from singing Fiddler on the roof, the song, sunrise and sunset. When you said that I stopped, I almost did it, but I just, I did discipline. I was heroic or too. Can we just talk about that?

**Michelle Benzinger:** Okay. Was your listeners. On the horizon for next Podcast season is Sister Miriam, the musical it's coming people Abiding Together. I seriously, you thought high school musical was good. Wait, for our Podcast.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** If we were like put a bunch of snippets together, that'd be really funny, Kristina. We love you. Oh gosh. Yes. And I so appreciate what you both have said and that we're talking about this reality of hope that. Is not just, um, wishful thinking. And I think we've talked about that before of like hope it's not just wishful thinking and something that the Holy father says in the next paragraph, after that he says tonight, or today we

acquire a fundamental right. That can never be taken from us the right to hope. It is a new and living hope that comes from God. It is not mere optimism. It is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement, uttered with an empty smile. No, it is a gift from heaven, which we could not have earned on our own. And that's glorious as a gift from heaven that we could not have earned on our own. And it comes from the triumph over the cross. And I was very struck this Easter season by the, just by the sovereignty of God, of, of how God is sovereign. And we know he's the alpha and the Omega he's the beginning and the end and an all time belongs to him. And it's, it's in his glorious wounds that were, were protected and saved and that God, in his mystery and Providence allows all things and he will see to it. If we allow him to, he will see to it, that all things are made well. But all things are made well, and I just been overwhelmed by that, that beauty that I don't have all the answers. I don't know. I find out new things about myself every day that sometimes are wonderful and sometimes a bit disconcerting. And I don't, I don't know how my story ends. I don't know that, but I do know that God does and that he's sovereign. And if I would, could just surrender to that reality, to that gift from heaven. Of the hope, you know, when we talk about the theological virtue of hope is Catholics. We're talking about the reality that that's an infused virtue in our baptisms. So ordered as directly toward God. And the essence of the theological virtue of hope is that heaven is our home and God is faithful to his promises. So we, he is who he says, he is like a, Heather, you say that a lot. I love that he is who he says he is. And, and this is not our home. This is beautiful, but this is not our home. And so God will see to it. If we allow him to, he will see to it, that all things are made right. And you know, the Pope Francis goes on to say in the humble, you know, that, you know, nobody comes out of the grave. Like that's never happened before, but with the Lord it does. And that promise continues until this very moment, as we sit here today.

**Heather Khym:** Yeah, I think it comes back to like Jesus really being the center of our life and our world and where we orient ourselves from. It's like, if he is the center and his promises are true. Well, that actually changes everything. But I don't think that many of us live like this very often, if at all, you know, usually what's at the center is my emotions. You know, it, depending on how I feel or what I'm experiencing, what my feelings are telling me, that's what orients me in whatever direction that - we're often controlled by our feelings. And they determine the outcome of our day. You know, if I don't feel good, then it's not going to be a good day. If I didn't sleep it's this it's that. Or, you know, because I'm sad, this is how it's going to be, because I'm hurt This. I'm never going to talk to this person again, like our feelings tend to just like override a lot of things. I think also, you know, there's a fear of disappointment that wells up. It's another feeling that we have, but, but the fear of disappointment that we're just so scared that if we ask God for something or we put our hope in him that we're just going to be disappointed. And I think being able to address some of these things and go like, what is it that is standing in the way of hope for me? Why is it that I don't want to put my hope in Jesus and. You know, we're talking about like these choices that we can make this gift of hope, this gift of faith, that it's not about us mustering it up as much as it's about us inviting the Lord to bestow these gifts upon us and being receptive to them. And I find that when I live that way and when I like choose to have hope and I go, I'm not going to choose to let my emotions dictate what's going on. I'm going to feel them. I'm going to offer them to Jesus and say, Jesus, like, please come here. This is what I'm feeling, but I need you to be the center of what's going on and to orient where I'm going in all of this. So I think just being aware of like, what are the things that stand in the way very tangibly stand in the way for us to have hope and be people of hope. Like we have to

become aware. Of that, just continuing to let life happen and for us to spin in circles and not really understand what's going on within our own hearts, isn't going to keep working. It's not working at all. Actually, I think it's just a distraction. So I think acknowledging some of those things is really important because when we do, and we understand like how we've been hurt in the areas of hope, then we can. I think move into a different place. We'll let God heal that because the hope that we think about is like, Oh, I hope we have pizza tonight. Or, you know, it's like, I hope that it's, but it may or may not happen, but that isn't really hope. Like that's what you were talking about, Sister, you know, like it's like this, will it happen? I don't know. Like maybe it will, maybe it will. Maybe it won't, but the hope in Jesus is unending. He is unending in every way. He steadfast. He's true. He's honest. He's faithful. He's not going anywhere. He's just, he's kind, he's merciful every time, you know, he doesn't fail us in that. So yeah, I think we, for many of us, we just need the whole idea, the whole concept, the whole truth about hope to be reformed in our mind and in her heart.

**Michelle Benzinger:** Yeah, and I love Pope Benedict. You know, Sister uses the quote a lot and we actually have it on a coffee mugs, the people who hope live differently. That is who we are. They live differently because they have a trust in something greater than themselves. They have a trust, something that is divine and sovereign, but I also love it. Pope Benedict says about hope. He says hope is practiced through the virtue of patience, which continues to do good, even in the face of apparent failure and through the virtue of humility, which accepts God's mystery and trust him even in times of darkness. And I love that part about mystery, like accepting God's mystery. Like some things are a mystery on this side of heaven and that's when we have to go deeper into our faith. That's like when we have to really stretch our faith muscles and our virtue, muscles of patience and humility, like Lord, I'm going to this mystery, even though I don't, I understand who you are, but I don't understand what the heck you're doing. There's gotta be a better way than this. Like, I mean, how many times have we been in a situation like, Lord, I know who you are, but I don't know what you're doing, but I'm going to trust in the mystery. Because you are going to reveal yourself in a way I know you are, and that is different outside of my realm of thinking outside of maybe even the possibility of how I think it should go, but I'm willing to enter into this mystery because you are going to make all things beautiful. And I was just thinking about that scripture, like, um, and the Easter season, he makes all things new. He doesn't, yeah. He says, I don't kind of make sort of things kind of things. Half of the things, when, you know, scripture is very intentional, when he says all, he means all now the mystery is, is it going to be on this side of heaven? What does all things new look like? We think we know what it looks like, but the Lord's ways are different than our ways. And his thoughts are different than our thoughts. So where is the Lord just inviting us into mystery? And to say, okay, I just surrender this and you're making all things new, even though I can't see it now. And I'm going to trust with humility and trust with patience that you are going to resurrect, redeem, restore, reconcile, whatever the situation is. And like Heather said, you know, our feelings can be indicators, but they can not be dictators of the situation and how it goes. Yeah.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Yes certainly mean those are, they're revealing places of our hearts and, and there's good reasons why in our life we've lost hope. All of us have had times of hopelessness and powerlessness where we've experienced areas that that seem like they won't change. And we've all had those places. And so it's hopelessness can be a very powerful kind of self protection, like a self defense mechanism, because hope seems too dangerous. It seems too vulnerable. And all of us have had experiences in our life where we



had to have hope or trust shattered. And we tried again and it was shattered again. And, and, you know, at some point our hearts are just closed and we say, this is too hard. This is too painful. Like, I don't want to do this anymore. And so. I wonder, and then that blocks us from really receiving love because we cut our hearts off from there. So, you know, I wonder in our hearts, where, where are those places like you were saying, Heather, let's be very honest because this is not a podcast about this, you know, kind of mindless optimism. That just is, this is real. This is real life. And so we all have these places. So in our life, where have I experienced hopelessness and powerlessness where my trust has been shattered and where I don't want to hope anymore. And Jesus is not offended by that. Even if it's in him, he does not get offended at all. And so he would love to help us. And then where in our hearts, can we all honestly acknowledge that and acknowledge the vulnerability of it and invite Jesus there and surrender that part of our heart, even if it's one small step. And that's like we were talking about in our podcast last week about revival and repentance and renewal. That's how it works. Like that's how it works. It's not a pretending things aren't there, it's a full in a restoration. It's a full kind of cognizant look at the landscape of what's really going on and along the Lord to come into every single place. And so we're living that life within ourselves with Christ at the center, even if we don't have all the answers, which we don't, but we, we have one who does, you know

**Heather Khym:** And this is actually like a really huge area that has this domino effect, as many things do in our life. But if we struggle to have hope in Jesus, And underneath that is because we've been hurt, you know? And we've been disappointed and little lies have crept in that, you know, where we conclude that? Well, maybe God isn't really good. Maybe he doesn't really care. Maybe he doesn't want to give me what I want. Maybe my desires don't matter. To him, maybe I don't matter. You know, like all of these things can come from areas of disappointment, where our hearts have been broken over something. And we don't understand, you know, what, what the whole picture is. And that can have a massive domino effect because if we don't hope in Jesus, then we really would be less likely to take risks for the kingdom. We're less likely to go when God says go, and we might think we are, but if this stuff is under the surface, I don't think we realize how debilitating it can be in all of the other areas of our faith, our vocation, our family life. Like, I think that when we take a look at it and we allow the resurrection power of Jesus to come into these places and we say, Lord, like, I'm just going to be really honest, like. This is where I'm struggling. This is where I have a hard time trusting you. And that's affecting my hope. Like, can you come in and speak truth here? You know, I believe that God will. I believe that he does, like he has in my own life over and over again. And it's not like a quick like, microwave experience. Like it's a journey of like pressing into these places, bringing it before Jesus and, and. Choosing to open my heart again, even when I want to shut down. Cause I am a shutdown girl when I've been hurt. Like that's just my default. I just want to run away, you know? But the process of like coming back over and over again and saying, I want to choose to trust you, Lord. Like I just am like so mixed up in here and I don't know how to do it. Will you just walk me through and start speaking the truth here to me? And I think like I've been more tender with myself in the last few years to just say like, it's okay. That I feel that, uh, you know, it doesn't mean I'm a bad person or I'm not a faithful Christian or whatever, like, but to just be honest about those places and be tender with those places and allow Jesus in his tenderness to come and meet me there, it's been really, really powerful for me.

**Michelle Benzinger:** And I think there's something about like Heather, you said there's different seasons. And we talk about the word seasons a lot on this podcast of our life, but I just have had conversations in the last couple of weeks with young moms and the seasons of the first, you know, 10 years of marriage. And then with a lot of littles. You know, and there's just a hopelessness that creeps in because there's the sameness of every day and they're in the trenches and they don't even have time to think. And marriage is challenging those beginning seasons because you're really learning you're in the beginning, parts of the school of love, like when you're really learning some hard foundational lessons about mutual trust and loving and all of that, and a lot of sacrifice with sleep deprivation. So all of that going together. It's a perfect combination. And I was just talking to a young mother and she said something about being hopeless and we were discussing it and that, and I think of the other part, she's like, I just feel invisible. And I was like, this is a hidden season for you, but hiddenness does not mean invisibility and I think we have to make. Because when we feel invisible, then we feel hopeless that the God doesn't even see us where we are in the season, you know? And he sees you like, but this is like, what I like to call that season is like getting your hands dirty in the dirt, pulling up weeds, planting seeds, and children, all those kinds of things. And it can feel like a very hidden season, but the hidden season is also the beautiful season. That's the season where hope is cultivated. That's where intimacy is cultivated. That's for foundational pieces are cultivated. So just even being in a different season now where kids are older and raising kids, like it goes by so quickly and people think, Oh my gosh, they used to tell me that when mine were little and be like, whatever, like, yeah, I haven't slept in so long, but now I'm looking at different. Yeah. And I'm trying to get hope for my children, where I want to respond and fear because they're getting bigger and I don't have control over their environment. So I just want to respond and fear and parents, and the Lord is saying, you have to parent out of faith and hope and not fear Michelle, like you have to right now. But I had to build stronger muscles up in the earlier seasons say, okay, Lord, is this constant surrender, you know of where you are in different seasons. Yeah. So, and I think hope is such a characteristic of trusting and love. And not trusting and fear, you know, and that is overwhelmingly coming to me over and over again. Yeah. Just that hope is trusting and his love is unfailing steadfast, consistent love

**Heather Khym:** I remember Michelle, when I was in that, we were both in this season at the same time where we were kind of in that hidden place. And I remember you saying to me one day, you know, God knows exactly where you are, Heather. And I was, it just stuck with me. It was just one of those moments where the Holy spirit was just on your words. And it just entered into my heart. And I had to keep going back there. I had to tell myself that, like I had to, literally in my own mind go, Heather, God knows right where you are and I'd go. Ah, and I just find comfort there. Like I think that God does use other people as well as his word. To speak the hope to us, and we actually have to cling to it. Like we have to take hold of it and to go back to it and to listen to the word again, to let it seep in even deeper. And, and I would say for all the state is, you know, I know that many people are in an older stage where their kids have gone and yeah. Maybe they've been they're widowed, you know, and they've experienced a lot of loss and they're wondering like, does God still have a plan for me? Like just the hope that God always has a plan that he, even then he knows right. Where we are. He sees you right. Where you are and his plans don't end, like, because other things and in our life, our seasons change. And so I think no matter what stage we're in. God has a new hope for each of us that he wants to place in our hearts. I really do believe that.



**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** I think it's, it was very fitting as we kind of draw our episode to a close here. I just, I can't help, but as I listened to you, both of just reflecting on just, just the kindness of Jesus. How kind he is. And I, and I don't know, dear friends where you need to encounter the kindness of God right now, where whatever part of your life are there, it's a barrier. Whether it's a place of hopelessness, whether it's a tomb, whether it's a deceased spouse or children, or in your life where you just feel overwhelmed, like where do you need Jesus to be with you today? Just to be with you and his he's. So kind to just the way he brings hope he doesn't jar it into our hearts. He just welcomes it and he's so inviting and so lovely. And I think as we move into the summer season and when we know come back again and the folly, I can't wait to hear how the kindness of the Lord has just come to me, all of us and probably the most unexpected places. Right. Because he's just so good. Yeah.

**Heather Khym:** Amen. That's a good place to land. Yeah. The end of this season, this long, long.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** So this is our, this is our last one, one thing. And then we'll have all the little ferverino here at the end. I loved the last quote from that homily. That'll leave us with, but

**Heather Khym:** I love the word ferverino.

**Michelle Benzinger:** I do too! I was just thinking about that, ferverino.

**Heather Khym:** I've got to get some of those words in my vocabulary, Sister, throw down some good ones sometimes.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Oh, Heather, what is our last, what's your last one thing for our wonderful listeners this season?

**Heather Khym:** My last one thing is the gift of our patrons. I am so grateful. I know all three of us are, you are my one thing. Thank you for all your financial support, your prayers, your words of encouragement. We're just so grateful for you and all the ways that you have blessed us and in turn blessed other people like that, we couldn't create this podcast without your support. Honestly, honestly, there's absolutely no way. There's so many moving parts and people that we've hired and things that need to be taken care of. So I'm incredibly grateful to you, and I'm just praying for you that the abundance of God's blessings in his generosity are poured out into your life for all that you have given to us. So thank you so much, patrons. Michelle?

**Michelle Benzinger:** My one thing is I gotten so many direct messages about a booklist that I have not I've responded to some of them, but I have not been responded like you guys are awesome. And just asking me, so I am making up a summer reading list for our listeners, you know, like, you know how you used to have him for school now I'm going to create one for summers and I've already started, but I will post it here and I put different categories. So if you want someone healing, if you want some Christian fiction, and if you want regular fiction, if you want all the kinds of different things.

**Heather Khym:** So some parenting, one, somebody was asking, throw that out.

**Michelle Benzinger:** Yes, I will do that. And so some summer reading book list, and I had actually, I took some, I started at this past week and I actually put descriptions on the books

that I chose because. You know, I'd give it a little bit more things like that. Sister, what is, okay. First of all, for our listeners sister's name on our podcasts, like the thing that we use, assess Sister Miriam is eating spring rolls. That is how she described herself today. Yeah. So there you go. Okay.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** It's a weird job. Well, I, in true both of you form, I have two one things to end the season. And so. Maybe you guys could help me with the first one. Um, I wanna just want to thank all the people that have a role in helping this Podcast come to me. I want to thank Kristina. Who's amazing who is our editor. And she's just so wonderful. And she puts up with us. I want to thank Lizzie, who does a lot of our details and kind of coordinates, um, who else, ladies, who else?

**Michelle Benzinger:** Cathy, that does our shop for us and Emily. She does all in Katie, who does our graphics and Emily, who does all the accounting stuff that we don't even want to think about.

**Heather Khym:** And Chris Benzinger is always the backup of the things Abiding Together.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Yeah. Yeah. And I know both of you, Heather, you answered a ton of emails and you looked through the emails and Michelle, he do a lot of the social media and oversee that. So I just want to thank both of you as well. So, you know, our, our love is not lost on you. Thank you so much for helping make this. Thank you.

**Heather Khym:** Thank you Sister for just being glorious, beautiful you.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** And I also just want to end, I have to end with another recipe. I hope that's okay. I just love summer food, I want to end with the recipe, which is a summer chickpeas, Greek salad. Okay. Which includes chickpeas, lemon juice, cucumbers, tomatoes, olives fed cheese. Like it's just so yummy with like a healthy dash of herbs and salt and pepper. So that's so great as another, that

**Heather Khym:** I want to try that!

**Michelle Benzinger:** How come you've never made any of these recipes. I mean, when you come to visit? Not one.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** I do some of the things like clean out fridge, clean out your coffee machine.

**Heather Khym:** Come on, Cinderella. What are you working on?

**Michelle Benzinger:** Seriously? You can expand your services.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Okay. Maybe that'll be my hope for this summer.

**Michelle Benzinger:** Hope does not disappoint Sister hope does not disappoint. Okay. Oh, I love it.

**Sister Miriam James Heidland:** Oh, thank you again, listeners. And just, I want to give the last word here to Pope Francis from his homily. And I just, I offer that we offer this to you.

It just from our hearts for the summer for you and just our love for you. He says this, he says those women and men in the end took hold of Jesus's feet, feet that had traveled so far to meet us to the point of entering an emerging from the tomb. The women and men embrace the feat that had trampled death and open the way of hope. And today, as pilgrims in search of hope, we cling to you risen Jesus. We turn our backs on death and we open our hearts to you for you are life itself. Hmm. Thank you so much to all of you view and we wish you a very blessed and Holy and wonderful and fun summer season. So until next season y'all we will be Abiding Together. God bless you.

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