

## Poetry


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Hope

I cling to you in the darkest hours  
When my face is soaked with tears  
And my heart is heavy  
There are times when I question my ability to continue a career serving children with serious illness  
Watching them face awful and unfair circumstances  
Incurable diseases that cheat them of the life they deserve  
But when the doubt creeps in at night, you are the renewal in my heart, encouraging me to go on  
You softly whisper, "You were made for this"

Hope

I cling to you in the darkest hours  
When my face is soaked with tears  
And my heart is heavy  
I did not really know how to describe you until I met extraordinary children and families  
I learned you are still possible even when the world is crashing down around me  
I can hold on to you while still understanding this beautiful child only has a few more days left to live  
You help me carry on and push through when nothing makes sense anymore  
You make meaning and infuse me with strength when my cup is empty and I have nothing else left to give

Hope

I cling to you in the darkest hours  
When my face is soaked with tears  
And my heart is heavy  
For my patients and families, there is so much I hope for.  
That the tumor will be benign.  
That the child will be cured.  
That the child will grow up to graduate high school and live a long, happy life.

Hope

I cling to you in the darkest hours  
When my face is soaked with tears  
And my heart is heavy  
You teach me that you evolve over time  
When science says a cure is impossible, I hope for a miracle until that child takes their last breath  
I hope for a world of no suffering and only comfort and peace for this sweet child  
I hope the child knows and always remembers how loved they are and how they will never be forgotten

Hope

I cling to you in the darkest hours  
When my face is soaked with tears  
And my heart is heavy  
You remind me the world is still a beautiful place even in the face of tragedy  
You find ways to assure me that my patients' legacies live on long after their death  
I feel their presence when the sun shines, when a beautiful rainbow paints the sky, and when a butterfly lands on my hand  
You soften my grief and make room for joy in my heart

Hope

I cling to you in the darkest hours  
When my face is soaked with tears  
And my heart is heavy  
Because of you, there are less dark hours  
Less tears and more smiles  
A lighter heart filled with positive memories and gratitude for the  
beautiful souls who allowed me to care for them during their time  
on Earth  
I rejoice in their memory  
I vow to honor them in all that I do

Hope

You heal me  
You put my heart back together when it is broken into a million  
pieces  
Because of you, I can follow my calling  
Thank you for being my eternal light in the dark shadows of grief  
I have found my way and am whole again

**Competing interest.** None.