

Advent Week One

HOPE - The Future of Christ's Advent.

Luke 1:46-49 My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me. His name is holy.

Waiting

Being Present - We are alive and looking.

Being Patient - We trust Christ's timing.

Staying Open - We let Christ unfold.

Being Together - We wait and grow as a community.

Hope in Christ NOT

People

Practices

Plans

Then Christ is born in

People

Practices

Plans

David and Thresa Hendersaon

Reading:

One: We are hungry for hope. We are hungry for Christ. A young woman who shared our hunger was told her child would fulfill her hopes and the hopes of her people.

Two: The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!

One: We want to believe and have hope but our world is full of troubles and our souls can grow dark. Mary had much to learn and many hardships and heartbreaks ahead but she gave herself to the hope of who her child would be.

Two: "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said."

One: Today we dare to hope and to give ourselves to the hope that arrives in Christ during Advent. Listen to the future we have in Christ. Remember who we are. Remember Who He is in us. Remember our work to do.

Two: From one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honor him. He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors, and has come to the help of his servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!"

One: As we light the candle of hope, we open ourselves up to the many ways Christ will be born in us in this season. We pray that we will receive Him and allow the Spirit to direct our lives and the blossoming of our souls.