



## **Advent Week 1 -- Hope**

*A Liturgy to Use at Home*

*This liturgy can be done alone, with friends over Zoom, or as a household/family unit. If you share it with others, be sure to include everyone (including both the youngest and the oldest among you!) in the process. It could easily be used to start or end your day. It could be part of a dinnertime routine. As always, do as you can -- with freedom -- and enjoy!*

**Read:** the scripture for the day from your Advent Link Chain (easy template and directions found here: [www.the-river.org/advent/](http://www.the-river.org/advent/)) or from the list below. (They are the same in both places.)

**Light:** the 1st candle in your wreath, the Candle of Hope...

And **Pray:**

*To the One who gives us Hope,  
Thank you for inviting us to the time of waiting.  
Help us to:*

*open our eyes so we can see your light,  
open our ears so we can hear your words of hope,  
open our minds so we can understand you,  
open our hearts so we can receive your love.*

*Come, long expected Jesus, we are waiting for you! Amen.*

**Play:** Song of the week: [Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus](#) (link on our website)  
Sing along, if you like!

**Reflect:**

*Pick 1 or 2 each day...or stay with the one(s) you like most!*

- Describe a time today when you felt hopeful...or if not today, tell a story of a time in your life when you were hopeful...
- How does today's scripture passage encourage you to hope?
- What are you hoping for? Consider this question on multiple levels...Immediate hopes to global hopes. Tangible hopes to soul hopes.
- How does it feel for you to hope these days? Does anything make it hard to hope?
- What would help you to hope more?

### **Scripture for this week**

#### **November 29th: John 1:1-5**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

#### **November 30th: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”*

#### **December 1st: Isaiah 9:2**

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

#### **December 2nd: Isaiah 11:1-3**

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.*

#### **December 3rd: Luke 1:13-15**

*But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.”*

#### **December 4th: Luke 1:16-17**

*“He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*

#### **December 5th: Isaiah 40:3-4**

*A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.*