

Advent



WK OF 11/30/25

HOPE SHALL COME TO PASS!

ISAIAH 2:1-5

Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

Read: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Devotional (30- 45 minutes)

This Sunday marked the beginning of the Advent season, the four-week time period leading up to Christmas when the historic AND global church await the "arrival" of Jesus. Fleming Rutledge, author and theologian, challenges us to view Advent as three events all at the same time: the redemption, sanctification, and glorification of Christ. During the Advent season, we will read different Scripture passages and light candles to signify different themes. This week's Advent theme is *hope*.

1. Whether you have celebrated Advent from when you were young or learning about this special religious tradition for the first time, what does Advent mean to you in this season of your life?

Isaiah 1:4, 15, 23 | Before focusing our attention on hope, it is important to briefly recap the darkness and wickedness that Israel was experiencing during the time of Isaiah's message. The gospel is honest about our sinful situation and its effects. God does not ignore sin and pain. Judah's complacency, pride, and unconfessed sinfulness mirrors that of our own sin in our own time. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). We need to be reminded of this darkness because the hope of Advent and the hope of the Gospel begin in the dark.

2. (Self-reflection; sharing is optional) In what sins have you been in for a long time?
3. Where do we need God's love and mercy?

Isaiah 2:1-3 | Isaiah 2:1-3 and 4-5 offer two promises to us. The first promise found in verses 1-3 is that God is going to use you to bring revival to the nations! God's timing, "latter days", references both Isaiah's near and distant future. The time that is *between* the near and distant is *our* story, as part of God's grander story. The God of Israel "will be established as the chief of the mountains" lifted "above the hills" – false religions and ideologies - where all nations will flow to it. As God will use Judah, He will use you, to bring a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural revival as witnessed in Acts 2, the day of Pentecost.

4. Where do you see God working in your surroundings, either at home in your family, in your place of profession, in your local community, or beyond?
5. In what ways may God be nudging you to be an integral part of His revival to draw ALL men, women, and children from all nations to Himself?

Isaiah 2: 4-5 | The second promise is that you will know a peace the world has never known! Verse 4 describes what happens after true revival takes place: civility, kindness, respect, and peace. True revival results in the benefit of all people, never tribalism or division. Yet, how can this promise be when we observe the wars, famines, and man-made devastations all around our world. We must look beyond the promise to the One who is the promise and can fulfill that promise: Jesus! Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9: 6-7). Jesus gives us His peace. Verse 5 leads us to our **Big Idea: Hope shall come to pass, so walk in the light of the Lord!**

6. It can be very hard to be discouraged by all the devastating conflicts taking place in so many corners of our community, nation, and world. Meditate for a couple of minutes on the definition of peace and Jesus as the Prince of Peace. What feelings come to the surface for you when you consider that Jesus has triumphed over death?
7. How can you "walk in the light of the Lord" this week to ignite hope in someone you encounter?

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord God, Father in Heaven and on Earth, thank you for hope. Thank you for the strength and joy of hope to wait and live out the advent of Jesus in a way that draws others who do not know You, to experience hope, eternal hope through Your Son, Jesus. In Jesus name, Amen.

Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)