

The Gifts of Advent: Hope

December 16, 2018: Week 3 of Advent



Gifts of Advent

Week 1: The Gift of Patience

Week 2: The Gift of Speech and Silence

Week 3: The Gift of Hope

Week 4: The Gift of Family

Use this weekly advent devotional for you to use at home, in the car, while waiting, at work, alone, with family, or in a group. This is for you! Advent preparations. If you would like to follow along with Pastor Angela, check out the Living Saviour YouTube channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuMJ5vxpQpMZLB8638JxE_w

The Gift of Hope

Hope is a word on which our future rests. We cannot know what will come, but with faith we place our hope in Christ. Like Zechariah, we hope for the tender mercy of our God, light in the midst of darkness and death, and the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins.

Gather

Gather your thoughts, family, friends, self, as we begin. You may speak the words of the dialogue, or silently read them.

Dialogue

Hope is a candle that flickers yet offers warmth and life.

The darkness will turn into light, the moon shine as bright as the sun.

Hope is a hand that grasps and reaches out in peace.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard lie down with the kid.

Hope is a song that grows and fills the world with joy.

The wilderness and dry land will be glad, the desert rejoice and bloom.

Hope is a promise of a baby to be born in a manger stall.

A woman will bear a son and name him Immanuel.

Light your candles

At this time, light the first and second candles on your Advent Wreath. If you don't have one, you can simply light a candle of any kind, even turn on a battery powered one.



Sing/Listen

Blessed Be the God of Israel ELW 250

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YMnYbP5EQA>

Sing, hum, listen, for as long as you would like.

When you are ready, pray the following:

O God for whom we long, we thank you for the gift of hope.
Be our light in the darkness that we may proclaim with
Isaiah:

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, your gift to
all the world. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:67-79 Common English Bible (CEB)

⁶⁷ John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

⁶⁸ "Bless the Lord God of Israel

because he has come to help and has delivered his people.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant

David's house,

⁷⁰ just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.

⁷¹ He has brought salvation from our enemies
and from the power of all those who hate us.

⁷² He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³ the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.

He has granted ⁷⁴ that we would be rescued
from the power of our enemies

so that we could serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes,
for as long as we live.

⁷⁶ You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to be saved
through the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ Because of our God's deep compassion,
the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

⁷⁹ to give light to those who are sitting in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide us on the path of peace."

"God's words of life for God's people"

Reflection

Sit in quiet and ask God to speak to you. Listen.

What part of the story touched you? Confused you?

Spoke to you about something in your life now? Something to confess, to learn? Pray for God's guidance and revelation. Speak to God from your heart.

Prayers

For this time of waiting and watching for the coming of our Savior, **we give you thanks, O Lord.**

When the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words, **we cry to you, O Lord.**

For the hope that shines through the darkest night, **we turn to you, O Lord.**

For the gift of friends and family who walk with us through life, **we praise your name, O Lord.**

For those who sorrow in this time of year, **we cry for you to come, O Lord.**

For those without voice in this world, and for those who do not listen, **we cry out for boldness in your name, O Lord.**

Gather us all under the promise of your Son, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Song

If you have a computer, phone, or tablet, try this link for the closing song:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers *ELW 244*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSpoALDffho>

Blessing

The peace of God accompany your waiting,
the light of Christ warm your hearts,
and the joy of the Spirit fill you with hope.

Amen

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Bonus Track If you have 4 minutes, take a break and listen!

A beautiful rendition of “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4W0wl2MQ7p0>

Monday December 24, 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worship services, all with candles and Holy Communion.

Sunday December 30, 8:30 and 10:30 Worship services