

Each week of this Advent season, we will provide this bulletin insert that has each week's Sunday morning Advent Candle reading along with some family discussion/reflection questions for you & your family to use as an Advent family devotional if you would like...

### **First Week of Advent - Hope**

#### **First Sunday of Advent – Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Reader:** This is the first Sunday in Advent. Today, we light one purple candle. This is the candle of hope. Advent is a time of waiting and hoping. We wait for the day when we celebrate again the birth of Jesus. We hope that everyone will come to know God and to worship God.

**(Light the 1<sup>st</sup>/purple candle)**

**Reader:** When we look at the first candle, we remember God's promise. God promised to send a Savior to the people. When we listen to our Scripture reading, we hear what the prophet Isaiah wrote about God. God fulfills the promises made to care for people. God is loving and just. God brings peace. This gives us hope. We look forward to the time when everything is fair, when the world is at peace, and all people are treated justly.

**Reader:** Read Isaiah 2:1-5

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for the words of the Prophet Isaiah that remind us that you are the source of our hope. Help us to live each day, allowing you to form us in a way that brings about your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

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#### **Sunday's Family Discussion:**

This Scripture offers us the hope of God's kingdom where there is peace. It includes the wonderful sentence, "...let us walk in the light of the Lord!"

- Who are the people in our world who need hope?
- What are the hopes we have for our world today?
- How do we help others know that God gives hope?

### **First Week of Advent - Hope**

#### **First Sunday of Advent – Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** Today read again Isaiah 2:1-5. Pick one verse and memorize it. How do you think this verse gives hope to people?

**Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020:** Is there someone you know who needs to hear words of hope? Make or select a card for that person and mail it today.

**Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020:** Hope is something we need in our world. Today, pray for the outgoing and incoming president, vice president, and the members of congress. Pray for their leadership for our country and for the world.

**Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020:** As we get ready to celebrate again the birth of Jesus, we sometimes get very busy. Today, take a ten-minute break. Sit quietly. If it helps you to concentrate, look at your Advent wreath. Pray, asking God's help to bring quiet and calm to a busy world.

**Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** Think about your family. Some may live with you. Others may be far away. Who in your family needs God's hope? Pray for this family member today.

**Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020:** There are people in our neighborhoods, in our church, and in our community who need to know of God's hope. Select someone to visit today. Visit by phone or in person. Go as a family or by yourself. It doesn't necessarily have to be a visit to a home. It could be as simple as taking an extra moment in a store or a gas station to offer someone some hope and encouragement. In our current COVID-era, we have found ourselves more than just physically "socially-distanced". We have also become emotionally-distanced...and that leads to a growing sense of hopelessness. Bring hope to someone today by stepping outside your comfort zone and breaking down an emotional-distancing barrier.