

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 28th, 2021

**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 are reminded of the hope of those before Jesus' birth. Just as He came once for the salvation of all people, He will come again. We are to be ready! 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 Matthew 24:36-44

#### **Prayer:**

Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for His words 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, "Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming..."

- 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?

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**Monday, November 29, 2021:** Today read again Matthew 24:36-44 & Romans 13:11-14. Pick one verse and memorize it. How do you think this verse gives hope to people?

**Tuesday, November 30, 2021:** 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 1, 2021:** Hope is something we need in our world. Today, pray for the president and the members of congress. Pray for their leadership for our country and for the world.

**Thursday, December 2, 2021:** 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 3, 2021:** 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 4, 2021:** 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. Maybe there is someone you always see at the library. Stop by today and talk with that person. Tell the person you visit one way he or she helps you feel hopeful.

# Merry Christmas!!

