

1st Week of Advent: Liturgy of Hope

Litany of the Advent Candle

One: My kin in Christ, as we gather around this Advent wreath, how might we embody the gift of hope this season? Perhaps we will sense ourselves tethered to the future,

All: or hear belief in our voices as we share our plans for tomorrow.

One: I wonder what we will notice, when we take a minute to look back from this moment—how today is the future of the past.

All: Some of us see our hope made into reality,
One: and others find a journey to now that we never expected,

All: while others still feel the pain of yesterday and simply being here is a gift.

One: What if this year, our hope comes to us with a reached-out hand? With a match already lit, waiting for us in anticipation?

All: May we praise our God whose light of hope shines on all our circumstances.

One: Let us worship our God who waited and imagined us into being,

All: who made us into dreamers who dare to dream despite an unknown future,

One: creatures of space and time,

All: who are God's hope come alive. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

One: Divine Light, hope can be a tricky thing. It helps us envision what might be possible, directing our movements toward the fullness of the Gospel.

All: And yet, we can also get lost in the future, forgetting the present or clinging to what never was, when what we hoped for doesn't come to pass.

One: By your vision for us, guide us to navigate the waters of space and time, want and need,

All: that we can be faithful to hold on when we need to hold on and let go when we must. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Holy Holding, you are the one in whom we can entrust our hope to. Open our hearts to put our faith and trust in you, that it might overflow with grace, that we might find ourselves safe with you.

Invitation to the Offering

Today we offer our time, energy, resources, and gifts with the hope of Advent. A hope that fills in the gaps of our doubt and fear, a hope that fulfills its promises in Kairos, in God's time. May we be so bold as to bring the fullness of what we have to offer today, trusting it to unfold with unexpected graces at just the right moment. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Divine Dreamer, receive our gifts alongside yours. Bless them with the rhythm of our heart beats of anticipation, the squeeze of our palms pressed together in prayer, and the lift of our eyes gazing up towards the heavens, searching for our own Christmas star to guide us. May these gifts of hope overflow with wishes of here and now. Amen.



"...THE GLORY OF GOD SHONE AROUND THEM..."

LUKE 2:9