



Advent Worship Service for Families

First Week of Advent – Hope

First Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 3, 2017

Light the first candle on your wreath and read together the following meditation:

First 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 first candle)

Second 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 is the potter who molds us. We know that the gospel witness is one that helps us understand that God is loving and just. God brings peace. This gives us hope. We anticipate again the birth of the baby Jesus, remembering that Jesus helps us know God's love for us.

First Reader: Read **Isaiah 64:8**. Think about a potter. A potter takes clay and forms it in a way that is pleasing. That is what God is able to do with each person. We are reminded that we are all the work of God's hands. Talk together about how we are formed by God. Remember together the gifts and talents of each person. How do we use these gifts that God has formed in us?

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.

Monday, December 4, 2017: Today read again Isaiah 64:8. Memorize this verse. How do you think this verse gives hope to people?

Tuesday, December 5, 2017: 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 6, 2017: 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 7, 2017: 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 8, 2017: 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 9, 2017: 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 by phone or in person. Stop by today and talk with that person. Tell the person you visit one way he or she helps you feel hopeful.