

COSSO SPIRITUAL FORMATION

A DEVOTION WEEK 1 OF ADVENT: HOPE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us prepare to welcome God!

A distant star glitters in the sky: COME, JESUS, COME.

A beacon that lights up the way: COME, JESUS, COME.

The hope of the Son brightens a gloomy day: COME, JESUS, COME.

OPENING PRAYER TO ADVENT

Bright God of Advent, blaze into our lives. Light up the way and rekindle in us your desire for justice and peace, that we may scatter the ashes of hope. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: Linking us together

Advent candle lighting is traditional in the church but not often used in the home. During these Covid Times, this tradition may still help us feel connected to our faith and to each other. Candles may be separate or in an Advent wreath.

(Adapted from a series in the Christian Reformed Church, www.reformedworship.org).

Reflection for Entering Advent with Hope

We light the first Advent candle, the candle of hope, as we look forward to the coming of Jesus, who is our hope now and forever. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth in living hope" (1 Peter 1:3). In hope, we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth on Christmas; and we look forward to Jesus coming into our lives.

Dear God, as we light this candle, we pray that you will shine the light of your hope into our hearts and into our world. Amen.

Pause: Spend a few moments reflecting on when you have faced a particularly difficult time this past year, and how through God's grace you were able to have hope.

For more devotional time: Read the story of Abraham & Sarah in Genesis 15:1-6 and 21:1-3. This is a story of hope. God promises them a son, and even though it took a long time, God kept the promise.

Additional Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 21:4-9; Luke 2:25-32

SONG "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

https://youtu.be/7xtpJ4Q_Q-4

GOING FORTH

During this time of Advent, may you expect God to come into your life.

And while you wait for the arrival of hope,

may the spirit move within you, comfort you,

and strengthen your faith with the promise of God's love.