

First Sunday of Advent - Hope



Nightly Prayer: Hope

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: God our Father, during this first week of Advent, we ask You to fill our hearts with *Hope* as we journey toward the birth of Your Son.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Family member lights the first purple advent candle.

Leader: Lord, we confess that we do not always accept Your invitation to true happiness. Often we fill our hearts with distractions and lesser things. By Your gift of *Hope*, help us to desire You above all else, and fully trust Your promises.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: We place our trust in You, relying not on our own strength, but on the help and grace of the Holy Spirit. Let Your gift of *Hope* enlighten our hearts, minds, actions, and deepest desires. Let us *Hope* in You, seeking only You as our true source of happiness.

All: Fill our hearts with *Hope!* Amen.

Scriptures of Hope for the First Week of Advent

Sunday's Hope

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe! Plans to give you a future full of *hope*. — JER. 29:10-11

Monday's Hope

They that *hope* in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar with eagles' wings; they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint. — ISA. 40:31

Tuesday's Hope

Our souls wait for the Lord, who is our help and shield. For in God our hearts rejoice; in your holy name we trust. May your kindness, Lord, be upon us; we have put our *hope* in you. — PS 33:20-22

Wednesday's Hope

Rejoice in *hope*, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. — ROM. 12:12

Thursday's Hope

May the God of *hope* fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in *hope* by the power of the Holy Spirit. — ROM. 15:13

Friday's Hope

For in *hope* we were saved. Now *hope* that sees for itself is not *hope*. For who *hopes* for what one sees? But if we *hope* for what we do not see, we wait with endurance. — ROM. 8:24-25

Saturday's Hope

Affliction produces endurance, and endurance proven character, and proven character *hope*, and *hope* does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy spirit. — ROM. 5:3-15

Food For Thought for the First Week of Advent

The first purple candle is the “*Candle of Hope*.” It symbolizes the *Hope* we have in Christ and our desire to spend eternity (and also the present!) with Him. During the first week of Advent, we wait for Jesus with *Hope*.

What does hope mean? Why do we have hope? How do we attain hope?
What does hope feel like (contrast to hopelessness)?

Why does the season of Advent begin with the theme of hope?

How do Mary and Joseph live the virtue of hope as they await Jesus’ birth?

**Let us join in together in prayer and reflection
with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
for the Coming of Our Lord.**

*In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. – Isaiah 40:3*

