



The Vine UMC

Worship Guide December 1, 2024



Week 1: The Heart of Advent

Topic: "Hope in Times of Despair"

Opening Prayer: Series Prayer

Lord, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, help us to find inner peace amidst the busyness of the season. May your presence calm our minds and fill us with your love. We pray for peace in our world, where conflict and strife seem overwhelming. May your light shine in the darkest places, bringing hope and healing to all. During this Advent season, bless our families with unity and understanding. Help us to communicate with love and patience, fostering an atmosphere of peace in our homes. We ask for peace in our communities. Guide our leaders to make wise decisions that promote harmony and justice. May we be instruments of your peace in every interaction. Lord Jesus, as we await your arrival, fill our hearts with your peace. May the joy of your coming dispel our fears and anxieties, and may we share that peace with all those we encounter. Amen.

Call to Worship:

Leader: In a world often shadowed by darkness, we remember the everlasting hope fulfilled in Christ.

People: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." Our deepest hopes are fulfilled in Jesus.

Leader: Just as the angel brought hope to Mary, Christ brings hope that sustains us, even in trials.

People: "In him, we find our confidence and joy." Jesus, our Hope, brings peace and joy.

All: Christ in us, the hope of glory, is enough. Let us worship with hearts open to His presence. Amen.

Personal Reflection: Where in your life do you need to invite the hope of Christ to dwell, trusting that His presence is enough to sustain you?

Songs of Praise:

1) "Emmanuel" Norman Hutchins

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5STFrnFI5k>

2) "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" UMH 196

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ez6QPDpgzXI>

Optional Song of Your Choice: Find a song that you can meditate to sing.

Prayer of Illumination (All say together): Loving God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit. As we hear your Word, may your hope take root in us, illuminating our paths and strengthening us to trust in your presence. Amen.

Sermon of the week: Watch The Vine UMC Sermon on Facebook or Youtube, "Hope in Times of Despair"

Song of Reflection:

"Mary Did You Know" Pentatonix

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifCWN5pJGIE>

Closing Hymn:

"Prepare the Way of the Lord" UMH 207

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmuFO9TovCE>

Benediction:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13). Go in this hope, rooted in Christ, to bring light and peace to a waiting world. Amen.

Additional Notes:

Join a Branch (Small Group):

Our mission to be "A Movement of Living Love," is a call to each community member to join in a sacred endeavor, to become part of a transformative movement that seeks to change lives and, ultimately, the world. We aim to create not just a church but a vibrant, living community that reflects the Kin-dom of God here on Earth, a community where each individual is not just a member but an active participant in bringing our vision to life.

"Cultivating Communities of Hope, Healing, and Belonging" is not just our vision; it's our calling. It's an invitation to all of us to engage deeply, love freely, and live fully, all while anchored in the transformative power of Christ through the Holy Spirit. Meetings start Tuesday Evenings 6pm (CDT)

Ways to Support the Vine UMC:

- Mail donations to The Vine UMC at 2621 Nolensville Pk, Nashville, TN 37211
- Donate Online at www.thevineumc.church/support-us

Next Week in our “The Heart of Advent” series, “Resting in God’s Peace When Life Is Unsettling”

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