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## HOPE: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*By: Carlene Lenore Douglas*

**LEADER:** The First Sunday of Advent is the beginning of the Christian Church year. The season of Advent consists of the four Sundays before Christmas, and is a time when we reflect on the second coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is also a season of penitence. The theme for this first Sunday of Advent is HOPE. Today we watch and wait, for we do not know when Jesus will return. Be alert, be prepared, for Jesus will come back, bursting through the clouds with splendor and majesty.

We light this candle today believing that the Light of God shines in the dark places of this world. We are also reminded that we should live a prepared life in hope, for one day will come when Jesus returns to receive us.

- *(Light one purple candle.)*

**CONGREGATION:** Behold He comes, with great power and glory!

**LEADER:** The brightness of God's Light fills our hearts with hope. Be awake! Be ready!

**ALL:** Be awake! Be ready! A glorious future awaits us! *Amen!*