



HOPE: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

By: Carlene Lenore Douglas

LEADER:

The season of Advent is a time when we reflect on the second coming of Jesus Christ. The theme for this first Sunday of Advent is **HOPE**. Scripture is filled with reminders that Jesus will indeed return, but the exact day and time is known only to God. We read these words in the Gospel of Matthew, “no one knows the day or the hour . . . only the Father knows.” As believers we live in hope – in the expectation of the fulfillment of this truth – and rejoice in the promise of Jesus’ return. Though living in hope will not guarantee a life devoid of challenge and disappointment, it is an assurance that when we are gripped by the clutches of despair, we can trust in God. Living in hope is an investment in our future. Amid the distractions and uncertainties of these present days, we light this candle believing in the promise of a secure and eternal future with Jesus Christ.

The single candle is lit.

LET US PRAYER TOGETHER:

O God of hope, the One for whom we wait: we come into Your presence with hearts of expectation. We praise You for You alone do wondrous things and fill Your earth with glory. Give us the hope and encouragement we need as we wait for Your promises for our lives to be fulfilled. We bow in humble adoration to the One who is and the One who is to come. We pray in faith that every day our lives will overflow with hope in You, and with repentant hearts prepare ourselves to meet You in Your second coming. We pray in the Name of our King, Jesus Christ who reigns forever and ever. *Amen.*