**First Sunday of Advent**

Carlene L. Douglas

**Young Adult:** Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is the liturgical season of the year when we reflect on, and prepare ourselves anew, for the second coming of Jesus Christ. The theme for this Sunday is HOPE.  
   
**Leader:** The Lord has promised justice and righteousness in the land. The days are surely coming. Let the redeemed of the Lord rejoice in God’s promise!  
   
**Congregation:** Our eyes are open, our hearts are ready. The present will not distract our focus, for we believe that a day of justice will come!  
   
**Leader:** Our strength is in our hope. We live as liberated people for our hope is in the Lord. We light this candle today, confident that Jesus will return to reward our hope in Him.  
   
**Young Adult:** **(Light a purple candle)**   
**Congregation:** The cares of today will not rob us of our hope in Jesus Christ’s return. Jesus is our Light, and through Him we are empowered to eradicate despair, expose injustice, and be liberated by the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ, we have the audacity to hope.