



## HOPE: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*By: Carlene Lenore Douglas*

**LEADER:** The Advent season is a time when we reflect on the second coming of Jesus Christ. The theme for this first Sunday of Advent is HOPE. Scripture reminds us that Jesus will return. We live in hope, in expectation of the fulfillment of this truth, and prepare for Jesus' return. Though living in hope will not guarantee a life devoid of challenge and disappointment, we have the assurance that when gripped by despair, we can trust in God.

**RESPONSE:** Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

**LEADER:** We will light a candle today, believing in the promise of a secure and eternal future with Jesus Christ, a time when wolves and lambs will live in peace together. Living in hope is an investment in our future.

**RESPONSE:** Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

- A youth lights a purple candle and says, we light this candle believing in the promise of a secure and eternal future with Jesus Christ. Come let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

**ALL:** O God of hope, we praise You for You alone do wondrous things. Give us strength to live through these present days, as we prepare for the unexpected hour when Jesus returns. We pray in faith that every day our lives will overflow with hope in You. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.