



## HOPE: THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*By: Reverend Dr. Adunnola Waterman French*

**LEADER:** The Advent season is a time of preparation, reflection, expectation, and waiting. The Sunday of Hope reminds us that we wait in hope for the Lord. Our hope is in the grace Jesus Christ brings us. “*May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.*” [Psalm 33:22]

**RESPONSE:** Lord, you are the hope of the world; our hope is in you.

**LEADER:** Hope sustains us in a world filled with disappointments and despair. To you, O Lord, we lift up our soul. In you, we put our hope; do not let us be put to shame. Hope of the world, show us the way of love, justice, and reconciliation.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, you are the Hope of the world; our hope is in you.

**LEADER:** Lord, as we prepare for your unexpected return, may our lives overflow with hope in you as we walk in our waiting. May we walk in your light, for you are the light of the world. Live in us and enable us to live in the way that inspires others to walk with you.

*Light one purple candle.*

**ALL:** We light a candle of hope today, praying that you fill our hearts with your light. We pray that the presence of the Holy Spirit will transform us so that both our worship and our time of preparation will please you in all things, both now and always, Amen.