

First Sunday in Advent: HOPE

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmist sings to announce that hope comes from God.

Voice 2: “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.”
(Isaiah 64)

“We shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.”
(Psalm 27)

Voice 1: The world cries for justice and transformation. Advent summons us to watch, to wait and to hope. In the destruction of the current order is the promise of a new order beyond our imagination. Signs of hope are all around us if we have the patience to wait and to see them.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: **Jesus Christ comes as the hope of the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle to bear witness to hope.**
(while lighting the candle of hope)

Sing verse 1 of #119 Hope is a star

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Journeying for Hope

“What an excellent experience to be together raising both awareness and funds for PWS&D. Can’t wait until next year!” shared Laura Kavanagh, team leader of Together in Motion based in Victoria, BC, after PWS&D’s first ever Journey for Hope.

Journey for Hope brings together people from across Canada in support of PWS&D food security programs. The climate crisis, conflict and ever-increasing costs are exacerbating an already urgent food crisis. PWS&D and our partners assist marginalized communities to address hunger and food insecurity.

Food security projects provide hope to families and communities. Amalia, an Indigenous woman in Guatemala, shares how her life has changed. “Before, our situation was poverty and violence, but this project is good for the community and Maya Mam women.

I hope other families and communities see my life as an example.”

Journey for Hope is crucial in supporting this essential work. In just two years, over \$50,000 has been raised across the country. We hope you’ll join us next time!

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to show our faith and bring hope to those in need.

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Second Sunday in Advent: PEACE

Voice 1: The prophets call and an apostle writes that peace comes from God.

Voice 2: “For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ...and there shall be endless peace.”
(Isaiah 9)

“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4)

Voice 1: The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice. Advent calls us to pray and work for peace—shalom—in the world God loves and to which Christ came. But God’s shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in the balance, loving God and one another.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: **Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle to shine for peace.**
(while lighting the candle of peace)

Sing verse 2 of #119, Hope is a star

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“This assistance had provided me relief”

In Pakistan, Hafiza Bibi, a single mother of four, suffered the loss of her husband and daughter and saw her home crumble before her eyes during a devastating monsoon season.

Hafiza’s husband had worked as a farmer labourer, while Hafiza stayed at home, caring for her four children. “Our relatives would sometimes help us by giving wheat or money as charity. However, after the floods, everyone suffered badly, and no one we know was able to help,” she explains.

Hafiza and her family were selected to participate in a food assistance project supported by PWS&D through our local partner Community World Service Asia, with support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

“I bought essential food items such as wheat flour, rice, sugar, tea, milk and vegetables. This assistance has provided me with some relief and allowed me to put food on the table for my children,” she shares, with peace of mind.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to provide comfort by ensuring families have the necessary resources to sustain their lives.

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Third Sunday in Advent: JOY

Voice 1: The prophets call and an apostle writes to announce that joy comes from God.

Voice 2: “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...and has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, ...to comfort all who mourn; ...to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning...”
(Isaiah 61)

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.”
(Philippians 4)

Voice 1: Grief, pain and loss are inevitable. But woven into life is the joy of living in a universe that reflects God’s beauty. Advent provides time to nurture joy in our lives and in the world God loves. Advent calls us to share with others the good news that comes into the world with the birth of Christ.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: **Jesus Christ comes as joy to the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle to glow for joy.**
(while lighting the candle of joy)

Sing verse 3 of #119 Hope is a star

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Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

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(while lighting the candle of joy)

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“I want to finish school”

The students at Neno Girls Secondary School in Malawi who receive scholarships from PWS&D are all children of God with unique interests and challenges. Yet, they have one thing in common: their families can't afford to pay for their education.

With help from PWS&D, a scholarship program makes education available to some of the most marginalized teenage girls in the area.

For girls, challenges are even more significant, with the cultural expectations regarding domestic labour and early marriage preventing many from pursuing higher education.

A student named Caroline Mkapita shares, “I am lucky to be here because my other friends dropped out of school due to lack of support. None of the girls in our village have managed to reach [the highest grade] and to go to college or university.”

While another student, Lindiwe, expresses her gratitude, “I just want to say thank you for helping me with my education.”

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to equip children with the tools they need to build joy-filled lives and brighter futures.

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Fourth Sunday in Advent: LOVE

Voice 1: The prophets call and the psalmists sing to announce that God is love.

Voice 2: “For the mountain may depart and the hills may be moved, but my steadfast love shall never depart from you...and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord who has compassion on you.” *(Isaiah 54)*

“Give thanks to the LORD, who is good...give thanks to the Lord of lords, whose steadfast love endures forever.” *(Psalm 136)*

Voice 1: From the mystery of God’s love came our creation and we are nurtured daily by it. The power of God’s love is transformative; because we have received God’s love, we cannot remain the same. Love means seeking the best for others. Love is compassion for all creation. Love speaks the truth with kindness. Love is the way of seeing others as God sees them.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: **Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle to burn for love.**
(while lighting the candle of love)

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All: **Jesus Christ is the love of God come into the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle to burn for love.**
(while lighting the candle of love)

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Puskar's Journey to Health

In Nepal, 10-year-old Puskar Bhandari lives with his family. Puskar had wounds on his body, which his family initially ignored. However, as the wounds spread, his grandfather took him to the hospital, where he was diagnosed with leprosy.

Puskar was later referred to Shining Hospital for treatment. He was provided with medication and treatment, and his grandfather received information about his grandson's condition. Unfortunately, after some time home with the new medicines, Puskar experienced a reaction and had to be readmitted to the hospital.

After his condition stabilized, he was discharged and now only visits the hospital for routine check-ups. Despite his health condition, Puskar aspires to continue his studies and to become a good cricket player.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to love our neighbours. PWS&D and our partners show this love by working to provide healthy futures for all.

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Christmas Eve/Day

Voice 1: The angels sing the glory of God in the highest heavens.

Voice 2: “Be not afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy for all people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord... you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!”
(Luke 2)

Voice 1: At Christmas, God speaks in signs. The baby in the manger is a sign of a new life and new governance shining in the world. Christ is born and the world is filled with the promise of hope, signs of peace, joy and the incarnation of God’s love.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation in joyful praise.

All: **We light this candle because God has been made flesh and dwells among us**
(while lighting the Christ Candle)

*Sing the hymn or just the chorus of
#159 O, come all ye faithful*

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Rejoice! Christ is Born!

Hope is not lost even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster.

The church, through PWS&D, responds to God's call to reach out to those in need. Together with our partners, we are making a positive impact in our global community, helping those affected by disasters and providing a sustainable way out of poverty.

Encouraged by God's promise of abundant life, we are addressing hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster. Our efforts are focused on caring for the poor, sick and vulnerable. Through our collaborative efforts, we aim to restore human dignity, alleviate suffering and promote community cooperation.

As a reflection of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love, we are striving toward a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember our brothers and sisters across the globe. Your support is crucial to the success of this transformative work.

This Christmas, help to bring hope, peace, joy and love around the world, please support PWS&D.

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