

11-30-25 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“Hope is not a skill. Hope is not something we muster in our own souls. Hope is implanted into our very being at our birth. Hope is of our essence. We have been created in the image of God, who is the beginning and end of all hope.”

Curtis Almquist



Matthew 24:36-44

Questions for Reflection —

- What are your intentions for Advent this year? What does it mean for you to “be ready” as Christmas approaches to once again celebrate Jesus as God-with-us? How will you make space in the seasonal busyness to listen for God and wait? What will enable you to find moments of quiet stillness? How will you remain attentive to God’s surprises? What spiritual practices might help you grow closer to God throughout this season of preparation?

- In what aspects of your life are you in need of God's light and hope to shine right now? In what ways are you seeking an increased sense of hope in God’s promises? What do you need to reclaim the gift of hope God gives? How will you nurture the seeds of hope God implants within you? How can you share hope with those you encounter in your daily life?

- How can we as a congregation stay awake to our role in God's unfolding Kingdom? What would it look like for us to be a Christian community offering hope and healing to all? What does it mean for us to keep God’s direction and God’s vision for a world of hope and justice at the center of all we do, not just in this season, but throughout the year? How can our programs and ministries serve to promote hope and transformation in the surrounding community, especially at this time of so much societal stress and uncertainty?

Daily Household Prayer

Holy One, You call us to wake from sleep, to become aware of our surroundings. The dawn of a new time of preparation is upon us. Forgive us when sleepiness takes its toll, when our discussions become battles, when our judgment and self-judgement outweigh our faith. Let us put on the light of Christ and live as You have called us in respect, in mutual dialogue, and in healthy living. Help us so that everything we do reflects Christ’s light. Amen.