

Nov 29 | Sunday

Hope: Light in the Darkness

Isaiah 9:1-2, John 1:1-5



**30 | Mon – Waiting in the darkness** | Read Psalm 130:1-8

In Psalm 130, the psalmist said he was “crying out of the depths.” Yet, even in a time like this, he finds hope in the Lord. It is this resilient, persistent hope in God’s promises that helps us as we wait. It is the first candle we light at Advent - the candle of hope. In the dark times of your life, find a promise. Its light will push back the darkness!

**01 | Tue – Strength** | Read Isaiah 40:1-5, 27-31

Are there areas of your life where you struggle with God’s silence? In verse 27, Isaiah’s words were address to the weary, discouraged Jews in exile but they speak to us today...does God know? Does God care? Where can we find hope again? He answers his own question in verses 28-31 by reminding them (and us) who God is. Read the result for those who hope in.. and wait for... the Lord. These promises are for you right now!

**02 | Wed – Hope comes disguised** | Read Isaiah 9:1-7

We go through seasons when it seems that darkness will never lift. Israel was in one of those times. But the promise in verse 6-7 rang down through the centuries as a tiny but unquenchable light. Hope would come as a baby whose name would be the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace and His kingdom of peace would NEVER end. Sometimes great hope starts very small.

**03 | Thu – A light to the Gentiles** | Read Luke 2:25-32

Simeon was “led by the Holy Spirit” to the temple to meet Joseph, Mary and their baby. He was eagerly anticipating the hope of Israel. Though the Roman army controlled his country and religious leaders were sometimes corrupt, he believed God’s promise. This hope for Israel was expanded to include the non-Jewish. When you find hope, extend it to others, even those who are not like you. It might be their last lifeline.

**04 | Fri – Arise! Shine! Your light has come!** | Read Isaiah 60:1-3

This was probably addressed the the Jews returning from exile to a burned and destroyed city. Not the homecoming they had envisioned but God called them to get up and shine. Not their own candle but the glory of God would shine through them. Will you let the glory of God shine through you, even in the darkest places?

**05 | Sat – Shine in the darkness** | Read John 1:1-5

A light is difficult to see on a sunny day. But it is in the darkness when even the smallest candle is visible. John was clear about the light source. *“In him (Jesus) was LIFE and that LIFE was the light of men.”* When we are so filled with the LIFE of Jesus that it cannot be contained, light leaks out. It will spread from us to others. How can you let the LIFE of Jesus bring hope to your world and to everyone around you?

**December 6 | Sun – LOVE: God’s Love** | Read Psalm 36:5-10, John 3:16-17



Hastings United Methodist Church