

**Advent Hope**  
**November 27, 2016**

*Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.***

## **LOOK**

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. As a whole the candles represent the coming of the **light** of Christ into the world. Individually, each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. The first candle (purple) is called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents **hope** or expectation of the coming Messiah. The second candle (purple) typically represents **love**. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger. The third week of advent the pink candle is lit. It is the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents **joy**. The fourth and last purple candle is called the "Angels Candle," representing **peace**. On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents **purity**. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Also, those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

1. What are you daring to hope for this advent season?
2. Why is hope so important? And what does it have to do with faith?

## **BOOK**

Matthew 24:36-44

1. What are the similarities between the days of Noah and the end times?
2. How are watchfulness and hopefulness interconnected?

## **TOOK**

Look back at the rest of the concepts from the advent wreath. Together in the weeks of Christmas expectation we have light, hope, love, joy, peace, and purity.

1. So many gifts from our great God and Savior! Which one do you need most right now and why?
2. What does readiness/watchfulness look like for a person of faith?