

Welcome to Faith & First United Methodist Church  
Sermon Notes - November 29th, 2020  
First Sunday of Advent  
“Christ our Hope”

Scripture: Advent Reading

Isaiah 60:2-3 - See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

- We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope. May the light sent from God shine in the darkness to show us the way of salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7:14 All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! **She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel** (which means ‘God is with us’).

Isa 9:1-7 Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder. For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor’s rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian. The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned. They will be fuel for the fire. **For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The**

**government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity.** The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

John 5:36-39 But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me. And the Father who sent me has testified about me himself. You have never heard his voice or seen him face to face, and you do not have his message in your hearts, because you do not believe me—the one he sent to you. “You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. **But the Scriptures point to me!**”

**Life Application Questions:**

1. When the world was in darkness, the coming Messiah was the hope, the light of the world. What is the light in your world? Why?
2. We all need hope to survive in this life. How is Jesus the center of your hope?
3. How are you living today that shows your hope for tomorrow?

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, you are the hope of this world. We do not let what our eyes see in our physical world sway our devotion to you. In fact, seeing this world only draws us closer to you because our hope is in you. We believe what the scriptures say about you. We believe you are coming again and we will wait patiently for you. Help us to be the light in this world. Others will see you in us and desire to have a relationship with you. You were the perfect example of how to live in this world while you waited for your time to come. Thank you for your perfect plan and our part in it. We pray all this in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.