



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden

From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

Advent Devotional 2020

Galatians 4:4-5 *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

The word advent encompasses several meanings, such as anticipation, expectation, coming, longing, desire, waiting, hope of promises fulfilled. We will explore some of these themes in these advent devotionals. *This morning we will look at various passages that speak of hope, something so precious in our Christian walk.*

Scripture

Psalm 119:114

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.

Psalm 130:7

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

Psalm 147:10-11

His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Lamentations 3:24

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:18-25

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

1 Timothy 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope

Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]

His oath, his covenant, his blood
support me in the whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. [Refrain]

("My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" Words by Edward Mote (1834), Public Domain, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Father in heaven, we give thanks to you for another morning, a morning where your mercies are new toward us again. Wherever you may lead us today, whatever your will may be, we put our trust in you, for you are our portion and our hope. You have given us every reason to trust in you, providing our daily bread and delivering us from the terror of death and damnation. Nevertheless, forgive us for the times where we forget you and set our hearts on idols and vain things, things that promise pleasure and a good life but never deliver. Please work in our hearts by your Holy Spirit that we may walk as children of the world to come, as children of light, as those who have been transformed and shaped by your heavenly promises. We thank you that your Spirit supernaturally and lavishly supplies our hearts with an abiding and living hope, one that influences us in our decision making throughout the day. How can we despair over our situation when you have promised to abide with us, to provide for us, and to protect us? Lord, through the gospel of your Son you have given us so much to rejoice in. We are grateful that through your Son's death and resurrection, you have overcome evil and have brought life and immortality to light for all who believe. We hope in all of your word, for all of it is true, and all of it guides us in this life. Let our lives be marked with patience and hope, for though we walk by faith now, we trust that in your perfect timing, we will come to see you face to face. In your Son's name we pray, amen.