



Christ is the Hope of the World

(As the first candle is being lit)

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

The first candle of advent is a symbol of hope. Hope is not just “positivism” or “thinking happy thoughts”. Hope can be defined as “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen”. Hope is grounded in a desire or expectation, not just a way of thinking. It has the full force of anticipation behind it. Hope doesn’t just accept things as they are, but hope believes in the things yet to come.

Many people will search far and wide for hope. Even Job himself once asked, “Where then is my hope – who can see any hope for me?”

True hope can be found in Jesus Christ. So we can declare, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” (1 Peter 1:3-8)

We need not be timid about placing our hope in Jesus, nor fear that we will be let down. “Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:1-5 NASB)

This advent season as we anticipate the celebration of the coming Messiah’s birth, may the hope of Christ fill our hearts, knowing that through faith in Christ we can have true peace with God, and we can exult in hope of the glory of God!