

ADVENT



Hope

Advent: Coming or Arrival



What are you hoping for?



Hope is always an object
and an expectation



“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures *we might have hope.*”

Romans 15:4



“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.



A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”



A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.



Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.



He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”

Isaiah 40:1-11



3 Ways Hope comes

1. Hope comes as PROMISED comfort



“*Comfort, comfort* my people, says your God.”

Isaiah 40:1



“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her *warfare is ended*, that her *iniquity is pardoned*, that she has *received from the Lord's hand* double for all her sins.”

Isaiah 40:2



“Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; ***we hope for light***, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but ***we walk in gloom***. We grope for the wall like the blind; we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at noon as in the twilight, among those in full vigor ***we are like dead men.***”

Isaiah 59:9-10



“Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart”

- Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

“God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy”

-God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen



Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “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



3 Ways Hope comes

1. Hope comes as PROMISED comfort
2. Hope comes to PREPARE the way



“We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with him. He walks everywhere incognito. And the incognito is not always hard to penetrate. The real labor is to remember, to attend. ... In fact to come awake. Still more, to remain awake”

- C. S. Lewis



A voice cries: “In the wilderness *prepare the way* of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Every valley* shall be lifted up, and *every mountain* and hill be made low; the *uneven ground* shall become level, and the *rough places* a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:3-5



A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower *fades* when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass *wITHERS*, the flower *fades*, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:6-8



3 Ways Hope comes

1. Hope comes as PROMISED comfort
2. Hope comes to PREPARE the way
3. Hope comes PROCLAIMING the good news



Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, *herald of good news*; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, *herald of good news*; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.



He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”

Isaiah 40:1-11



“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*”

Romans 15:13

