

## Sermon Discussion - 27 November 2022

For the following four weeks we will be reflecting on **Advent**. The advent season includes the four Sundays before Christmas when the church looks back to Christ's first arrival in Bethlehem and looks forward to His second and final arrival. Each week we will reflect on a different word (*Hope – Love – Joy – Peace*). The word this week is Hope.

**Question:** How would you describe hope? How does our culture describe hope and what is that hope placed in? Is it different from biblical hope? If so, in what ways?

Note: Today is an opportunity for us to step back for a moment and reflect on the Hope we have because of Christ Jesus. It's an opportunity for us to see the big picture of God's great salvation. God has given us reason to hope but our hope is not dependent on a feeling; our hope is in the person of Jesus. Today we want to think about the reality of HOPE, not just the warm fuzzies of hope. *Remember, biblical hope is a confident trust that God will keep his promises.*

### Read Isaiah 11:1-5

*Real Hope trusts the Good King to bring the good ending.*

- What does the act of hoping look like in your life?
- Do you find waiting difficult? Why?
- How are we to wait from a biblical perspective?
- Do you have trouble believing that a good ending is coming?

### Read Isaiah 11:6-9

*Real Hope is fuel to stay in the struggle.*

- How might the long period of silence between the end of the Old Testament and the coming of Christ have caused people to doubt God's promise?
- Why does looking ahead to the way the world will be when Christ returns give us hope for today?
- Take time to share all the reasons you have hope in Christ Jesus.

### Read Isaiah 11:10

*Real Hope knows the end of the story.*

- Is Jesus the object of your hope?
- How can you act on this hope today? What will it look like for you personally?

- How will you continually turn to Jesus as your hope, especially in this season with all there is to navigate?

**Prayer**

Take time to pray and ask God to help you live with biblical hope. Pray for ways to speak hope to yourself and into the lives of others.