

HOPE: The first Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2020

Light one purple candle today

ADVENT LITANY

Leader: Why light a candle that will burn out?

**People: The message of this candle cannot be quenched. It speaks of hope:
hope greater than fear; hope larger than despair; hope stronger than death.**

*Leader: We await the prophesied hope of the world, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying in a manger.*

People: We light this candle in faith.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE

All: Prepare the way of the Lord, the Giver of Hope.

Suggested Hymn: Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending (#6 in The Presbyterian Hymnal)

The Gospel reading for November 29, 2020:

Mark 13:24-37

13:24 "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake--for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Prayer for the First Sunday in Advent:

The "day that shall come to pass" is *now*. The "house of the God of Jacob and Rachel" is *here*. O God, be with us in these moments in this place, that in days to come we may remain with you as we walk in the world. Amen.