



## **ADVENT 2016**

### **WEEK ONE: THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

Opening Liturgy: Based on Psalm 130

L: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

**All: and in God's word I put my hope.**

L: My soul waits for the Lord

**All: more than watchmen wait for the morning,**

L: O people of God, put your hope in the LORD,

**All: for with the LORD hope is unfailing love**

L: and with the LORD, is full redemption.

**All: God will redeem God's people from all their sins.**

L: As we begin preparing for Christmas, people have many hopes. What are your hopes?

(Pause for a time of meditation)

**All: As Christians, God is not only offering us hope, God is guaranteeing that putting our hope in God is**

**worthwhile. Romans chapter 5 verse 5 reminds us that *Hope in God does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom God has given us.***

L: And as God's disciples we also have the opportunity to help others have hope in God. Think about how you can help others gain hope in God this Christmas! As we light the first candle of Advent – the candle of hope.... remember God gives us hope. Christmas is about God's gift of hope to us but not just for us – to everyone. Think about how you can take the hope God gives you and share it with others. Help your family to put their hope in God, help the community you live in have hope in God by sharing God's gift of hope to all!

**All: God, during this Advent Season, and all seasons, make us an instrument of hope for ourselves and others. There are people in our neighborhoods, in our church, and in our community who need to know of God's hope.**

**Let others see in us the hope you have given to us, so that everyone will come to know you and to worship you.**

**This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's important – waiting, hoping and sharing the true meaning of this season. We wait for the day when we celebrate again the birth of Jesus. Amen**