



## Week 12: Advent - Hope

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Advent means “Coming”. In the church, blue and purple are “getting ready” colors. During Advent, we are getting ready for the “Coming” of Jesus. We are getting ready for Christmas. During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to be born in the world.

During Advent, we practice opening our hearts to welcome Jesus. In Advent, we practice Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. On this first Sunday in Advent, the first Sunday of the new Church Year, we especially practice Hope.

Ever since we put the first ornament onto our Jesse Tree, we have been learning about the times of God’s people before Jesus was born. We know that God sent powerful leaders, like Abraham and Joseph and Moses and Elijah, to protect His people and to help them stay faithful to the One God for thousands of years. Then some new prophets, especially one named Isaiah, began to predict the coming of a Messiah. They told God’s people to expect the greatest leader ever.

Isaiah wrote:

“For to us a child is born,  
To us a son is given,  
And the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”

And:

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (Which means God with us)  
These prophecies gave people Hope.

When God’s people were hungry or thirsty or oppressed (that means pushed down), they still had Hope that their Savior would come. So, in Advent we remember their Hope that the Savior Messiah would come. They had Hope that Jesus would change their world.

And we also remember our own Hope that the birth of Jesus will change our world too.

