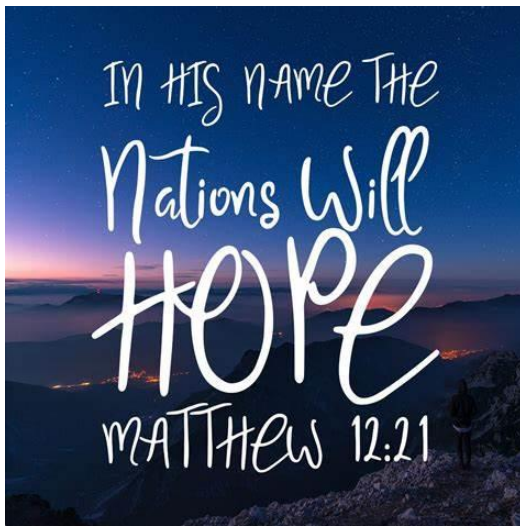


Guided by a cloud 37 (Exodus 13:21-22)

This Sunday is the first one of advent and is when we would be lighting the first candle on the advent wreath. The green wreath symbolises the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. While the circle reminds us of God, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. Candles on the wreath symbolise the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son, Jesus. Traditionally there are three purple and one rose candles. The three purple candles symbolise hope, peace, and love. These are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The rose candle, which symbolizes joy, is lit on the third Sunday. A fifth white candle is placed inside the Advent wreath associated with angels and the birth of Jesus.

This week is 'together apart' communion and in line with the advent theme we are focusing on the hope that Jesus brings through his sacrifice on the cross.



Worship time

[From the squalor of a borrowed stable](#)

[Light of the world](#)

[My hope is built on nothing less](#)

Romans 5 - Peace and hope

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings,

because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

We come to our communion table because Jesus invites everyone to share in this meal. We give thanks at the table because Jesus showed us the way and because he is the way. Jesus was a gift from God for the world. He was called Immanuel, "God with us". We eat and drink at the table because on the night before Jesus died he ate and drank with his friends and told them to do this in remembrance of me. At this table we remember Jesus' birth and his presence as God with us, we remember his life and love, his suffering and death on the cross. We remember the resurrection and the promise of his life and that we are waiting in hope to see Jesus again.

Thank you God for this bread and wine, for the gift of your Son. Fill us with your spirit today so we can understand the depth and height and breadth and length of your love for us.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7