Advent Candle-Lighting Liturgy — The Candle of Hope

Reader 1: Today we begin our Advent journey. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus calls us to stay awake and be ready, trusting that God is at work even when we cannot see what lies ahead.

Reader 2: Advent invites us to look beyond the busyness of the season and pay attention to God's presence among us. Hope doesn't mean life is easy. It means trusting that God has not abandoned us.

Reader 1: As we light the candle of hope, may we keep watch for signs of God's grace and trust that Christ's light continues to shine in our world.

[Light the first Advent candle.]

All: God of hope, awaken our hearts to your presence. Help us look for signs of your grace, trust your promises, and carry the light of hope into our homes, our church, and our community. Amen.

Hymn of Response: *Advent Candle Song (V. 1) #2090 TFWS*



Coming Home for Christmas

Questions for the Journey

As we journey through Advent, may these questions invite you to pause, reflect, and notice where God is meeting you along the way. There are no right or wrong answers—only opportunities to listen, wonder, and make room for Christ.

Week 1 – The Alert Household
Mark 13:24–37 | Staying awake and watching for Christ

- Where might God be trying to get my attention?

- What helps me stay awake to God's presence in my everyday life?

- Where do I see signs of hope around me?