

## Advent Season

- Advent means "arrival" and signifies the start of the arrival of a person.
- It's a time to **reflect** on the unexpected nature of Jesus' humble birth
- And an opportunity to **join** in the expectation of when he will come again to make all things new

## Jesus is the advent of Hope

**Isaiah 9:2-7** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## Context

- Israel waited for the promise of Christ's arrival since the beginning
- This promise served as a constant light of hope through time

## The timing of God's promises are always perfect

- In one of the darkest periods of Israel this promise was given
- In one of the darkest periods of Israel the promise arrived
  - o Jesus' birth was a loud message "what you hoped for is here, your rescuer and redeemer is here"
    - Simeon
    - John the Baptist
    - The Samaritan woman

## God's promises are supposed to be trusted and hoped for

- Regardless of the context
- Regardless of the waiting

## Hope is a joyful and confident expectation of what God has promised

- In the darkness of our current days, the light of Jesus is still bringing Hope
  - o What He did, He can do in you.
    - Heavy for what's behind you?
      - His death and resurrection are the beacon of true hope.

**Isaiah 43:18-19** "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

- Heavy for what's before you?
  - He is an assurance that He who promised can perform

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

- Heavy for what's inside of you?
  - His arms are wide open as an invitation to come as you are

**2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ - *God is Greater than our hearts*

**Hope is** the Joyful and Confident expectation that our rescuer and redeemer is coming again