

November 29, 2015

Comfort & Joy – Hope (first Sunday of Advent)

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The first Christmas looked very different than Christmas today. Jesus didn't bring Christmas decorations, gifts or dinner. What did he bring? What is he bringing today?

Passages full of hope.

- 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13
 - Even in a challenging culture and time take heart, have hope!
- Luke 1. 11-17, 26-33
 - The angel says - don't fear, have hope!

We all face hopelessness when we focus on the wrong things, the little picture. But God's framework is larger than ours and he invites us to put on a hopeful perspective.

We have hope for right now and hope for the future. Even if our situation doesn't change – it's not over till God says its over. The present hope points to the future hope.

“We must accept finite disappointment but we must not lose infinite hope.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.

Discussion Questions:

- What does hope mean to you?
- What does having hope look like when our situations might not change?
- Do you pray with hope? What might that look like?