



## Advent Meditation: Week I The Geography of Waiting

Let Hope find me. Let Hope find you. Let Hope find us.

*“The question is not, ‘How am I to love God,’ but “How am I to let myself be loved by God?”* Henri Nouwen

### Invocation

Lord God, we are starting a new church year and we are waiting and preparing for the day when we remember your incarnation – taking on human form and walking with us.

The future is a mystery to us. The path is frequently unpaved and uncharted. We are in dire need of landmarks that show us where we are and where we are going. Sometimes we need to stop groping in the fog and sit down and wait for you to find us. Come to us. Find us. Be with us. We ask for your blessing on this time. Fill us with hope that this Advent we will make the time to let you find us, let you come to us.

### Confession

Well, Lord, here we are again. Another Advent season starting. Another year of hoping to get it right, of hoping to pack it all in, of hoping that our families will behave this year, of hoping to have all the cheer and peace that the Christmas cards say we should have. Oh, we have a long list of **our** hopes.

This year Lord, teach us to wait. Teach us to listen. Teach us to let **your** Hope come into our heads, **your** Hope come into our hearts and **your** Hope be shared by our hands.

### Psalm 25:1, 4

**To** you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

### I Thessalonians 3:11-13

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## Luke 21:25-28

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your hands, because your redemption is drawing near.

### Prayer

**Leader:** Creator God, we are lost without you. We pray that you will find our minds open to you.

**People:** Hope come find us.

**Leader:** Christ, we have lost hope that we can make a difference. We pray that you will find our hearts open to you.

**People:** Hope come find us.

**Leader:** Holy Spirit, we have lost hope in your ability to make a difference. We pray that you will find our hands open to do your loving work.

**People:** Hope come find us.

**Leader:** We pray for all humankind. That the homeless find shelter, that the hungry find food, that the lonely find friendship, that the sick find health, and that we find the ways to make this happen.

**People:** Hope come find us all.

### A time to be still

You are invited into a time of inner stillness.

Breathe deeply.

Sit with the image of Hope as you fill it with color.

Let Hope find you.

### A blessing

May God bless us with confusion - so that we open our hearts to God's way.

May God bless us with fatigue - so that we open our hands for God's work.

May God bless us with frustration - so that we open our souls to God's peace.

Hope come find us.

