

First Sunday of Advent

The Prophets Candle: Hope

Each and every day we use that small but oh so powerful word...hope. We think about its possibilities and its lack. We use the word hope every day to describe the most mundane wishes. We use it to describe the good feelings we desire that bring to us a sense of well-being.

Hope...when it's biblical changes the way we view the present. It reaches into our souls and helps us to take the next step when there is no good external reason for doing so. It encourages us to stare down the circumstances of our lives and push through to tomorrow.

What is hope? Hope has been defined as; *to desire with confident expectations; to desire for a certain thing to happen.*

In the bible the Greek word for hope is Epis. Meaning the _____ and _____ expectation having to do with the _____ and the _____.

The people of God in the Old Testament believed in the hope given by their prophets that one day the Kingdom of God would be restored. Men like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Micah told of One who would come and restore the earth and the people to conform to the Divine Plan. They spoke of forgiveness and cleansing that one day would come. They pointed to the promises made by God to bring together all things according to His purpose and plan. They spoke of a virgin giving birth to a child who would be the long awaited Savior...

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