

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "God of Hope and Peace" 11/30

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and  
peace in believing (Romans 15:13)*

We have entered into the season of Advent. During the Season of Advent, we watch the story of the coming of the Christ Child unfold.

This is a time to prepare, a time to anticipate, a time to remember, a season of hope. During Advent, the nights are long and dark, but they will be getting shorter. There are storms, but our hope is in the promise of a glorious morning of a new day. Of a new light, one which will shine on us, will show us the way, will BE the Way.

We see His star and with hope we step out into the dark and seek the peace God brings into our storms.

Ever notice how the world blinds us to Hope and Peace? In good times one may be blinded by false promises, the glitter of fool's gold. When things get rough, we are blinded by fear. Yet in both good times and bad, God points the way to hope and peace. These are the words of promise for the first two weeks of Advent.

The Christmas carol I have claimed for Advent this year is *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. I suppose it should be *God rest all ye merry pe-e-ople*, but I'll let the words stand. Whatever, the hymn tells us *merry* people to let nothing cause us dismay, to not get too scared of the dark, but to remember, Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day. He was born to save us all from Satan's power when we go astray. This sounds to me a lot like what I hope for and it is what gives me peace.

We are told in Job to "have confidence, because there is hope; we will be protected and will rest in safety." (Job 11:18) Again, peace follows hope. Jesus says, "I have told you these things, so in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) This peace which He leaves with us, is not as the world gives. We are, therefore, not to let our hearts be troubled and we are not be afraid. (John 14:27) This is the peace I'm hoping for.

Hope is what one has before the lights comes on, before the dawn breaks, while it is still dark and they know, without a doubt the sun will rise again. Hope begins when one stands in the darkness and looks toward the coming light. We hope in Christ's Advent, we have hope in Christ's being with us and in His coming to us. It's more than hearing God's promise of peace and saying, "Oh, I hope so." It is hearing God's promise of peace and claiming, "I hope so - because God said so."

Holding on to God's promises, there is nothing we dismay, for during this time of Advent, we await for what we have. We know in whom we believe. We rest in what we hope for – the peace of God.

God's blessings on your Season of Advent.

## Please pray with me

God of hope, thank You for Your hope which strengthens us as we await Your Advent. Thank You for the peace which comes to us as we believe in that for which we hope. Without seeing we are not dismayed, we know You are here and You are coming.

**Amen.**