

SERMON NOTES:



Nov 23, 2025

ADVENT WEEK 1

Pastor Mick Spann

HOPE

1. Entering Advent

- Advent = “coming / arrival.”
- A four-week journey toward Christmas.
- Not about rituals or Catholic tradition — Advent is ancient, global, and for all Christians.
- Helps us slow down, breathe, and remember why the incarnation matters.

2. Advent Begins in Darkness

- Advent does not begin with lights, tinsel, or celebration.
- It begins with darkness — with Israel waiting for the Messiah.
- God’s people lived under Rome: tired, oppressed, longing for freedom.
- Many of us live in this same space — tired, overwhelmed, aware the world is not as it should be.
- Into that honest darkness, God speaks HOPE.

3. Isaiah’s Promise of Hope — Isaiah 9:1–2

- “In the future He will honour Galilee... The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.”
- Matthew quotes the Septuagint: “those living in the land of the shadow of death.”
- God promises a coming Light... a dawn of salvation.

4. Biblical Hope: Waiting with Tension

- Hebrew words for hope:
 - Yakhal (יָחַל) — to wait, endure, hope.
 - Qavah (קָוָה) — to wait with tension, like a stretched cord.
- Hope is not relaxed waiting — it is longing, trusting in the dark.

5. Examples of Hope in Scripture

Noah — Genesis 8

- Noah waits in the ark for months, unable to see outside.
- Sends a dove... returns with an olive leaf.
- A sign: “God is doing something new.”
- Hope is not optimism (“It’s not that bad”).
- Hope trusts God’s character even when we cannot see.

Isaiah — Isaiah 8:17

- “I will wait (qavah) for the Lord, who is hiding His face.”
- Israel surrounded by enemies, fear everywhere.
- Yet Isaiah waits because he knows God’s past faithfulness.

6. Psalm 130 — Hope in God's Unfailing Love

- "I wait (yakhal) for the Lord... because with the Lord is unfailing love." (vv. 5, 7)
- The psalmist waits not for a feeling — but for a Person.
- For God's khesed — loyal, steadfast, covenant love.

7. Psalm 88 — Honest Darkness

- A psalm of despair, grief, abandonment.
- Read in Advent because it gives language to honest lament.
- Hope grows not from circumstances, but from knowing God has been faithful behind us — beyond even the grave.

8. Does God Act in Death? — Luke 20:37–38

- Jesus: God is "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."
- "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living."
- Suggests the rhetorical questions of Psalm 88 may be answered YES:
 - Do the dead praise You? Yes.
 - Is Your love declared in the grave? Yes.
- Nothing — not even death — is hidden from God.

9. Christian Hope = Resurrection Hope

- N.T. Wright: Christian hope is not escapism or wishful thinking.
- Hope is grounded in Jesus' resurrection — the launch of new creation.
- Hope is happening now — renewal, healing, reconciliation already begun.
- Yet still partial until Christ returns — so we wait.

10. Creation Groans — Romans 8:20–25

- All creation groans in labour pains.
- We wait for "the redemption of our bodies."
- "Hope that is seen is not hope... but if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

11. A Living Hope — 1 Peter 1:3

- "New birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

12. Hope That Renews — Isaiah 40:31

- "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."
- For the tired, weak, weary — hope brings strength.
- Even as we wait for God's guidance for our church property, He is forming us into His people of hope.

13. What Hope Does

- Doesn't deny the darkness.
- Doesn't fake a smile.
- Doesn't give in to despair.
- Hope stands on this truth:
 - God has acted before.
 - God will act again.

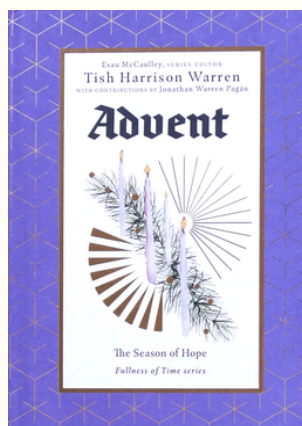
The Bible Project "Hope" Video



14. Advent Hope Today

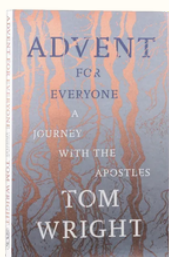
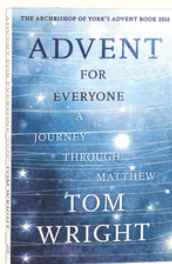
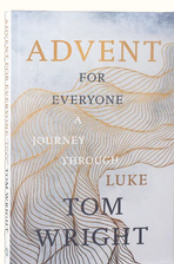
- We wait in confidence that God will complete His work (cf. Philippians 1:6).
- Advent candles symbolise that Light has come, Light is here and Light is coming again.
- Jesus' Kingdom has made landfall, is advancing, and will be fully revealed.
- Jesus the Messiah is with us now — by the Holy Spirit — "to the end of the age."

Books that have helped Pastor Mick in preperation for this series:



Advent: The Season of Hope
(Fullness Of Time Series)
Tish Harrison Warren

CLICK HERE



Advent For
Everyone
N. T. Wright

CLICK HERE





DAY	VERSE	REFLECTION QUESTION
Sunday Nov. 30	Isaiah 8:17	As you look at your life or the world around you, where does it seem like God is hiding his face? How do you hold onto hope in those situations?
Monday Dec. 1	Psalms 39:7	What are you looking or hoping for in this Advent season? Consider bringing those things to God.
Tuesday Dec. 2	Psalms 130:7	How have you experienced God's consistent, dependable love in the past? How does that ground your hope for the future?
Wednesday Dec. 3	Isaiah 40:31	Consider the parts of life that feel most exhausting right now. What could it look like to put your hope in God for strength and direction?
Thursday Dec. 4	1 Peter 1:3	How does Jesus' resurrection from death shape your hope for both the future and life today?
Friday Dec. 5	Romans 8:20-21	What will life be like in God's fully liberated and healed world? What will be the best part of that world?
Saturday Dec. 6	Romans 8:24-25	What does it look like for you to actively but patiently wait for God right now?

