

Christ

PEACE

Prevailing

JOY

Abounding

LOVE

Born

HOPE

Given

Advent Starts this Sunday



Take time to reflect and remember the significance of this time. Let's prepare our hearts in the hope of Christmas, anchor our souls in the love of God, rejoice in the joy of our salvation, and rest our souls in the peace of the Lord. How do we do this?

By renewing our minds in the prophecies and promises of Jesus' first advent!

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Have you ever paused to consider what you might have felt, or said, if you had been present at the birth of Jesus?



Advent Hope

What is hope? How do I get it? How do I keep it?

Hope is not wishful thinking. It's not rose-colored glasses. And it's not simply an optimistic attitude.

For a Christian, hope is confident expectation. It is knowing and believing that God is who He says He is and is faithful to do what He has said He will do.

For a Christian

Hope is a Person and a Power (Rom 15:13, Heb 6:19, 1 Tim 1:1, Titus 2:13, 1 Pet 1:3)

Hope is a strength to stand (Rom 5:2) and a motivator to live godly (1 Pet 1:3)

Hope is a refuge (Heb 6:18)

Hope is now (1 Cor 13:13, 2 Th 2:16)

Hope is future (Col 1:5)

Hope is to be shared (1 Pet 3:15)



Advent Hope

Christians have hope in the face of fear, anxiety, and worry.

Do we live remembering the hope we have, or do we forget?

Jesus is our Anchored Hope (Hebrews 6:19)

- On calm waters, He is our anchored Hope to keep us from drifting.
- In turbulent waters, He is our anchored Hope to keep us from drowning.

Anchored hope is peace and confidence in any circumstances, because it's not based on the circumstances. Our hope is based on Jesus— what He has done and what He will do.

When God came in the flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14, Luke 2:12), hope came in the form of a helpless baby. That baby in the lowly manger grew in wisdom and in stature (Luke 2:40) and entered into the God's service to minister to His people (Mark 10:45) and to give His life for the whole world (John 3:16-17).

Share the Hope of Jesus with all people.





The Legend of the Candy Cane


Advent Hope

Jesus is the reason for the season 

Look at the Candy Cane. What do you see?
Red stripes of blood, shed for you and for me.

White tells of purity, righteousness, and light;
That came to our world, on that first Christmas night.

The candy is hard -- Jesus, our Rock, to proclaim.
It's shaped like a "J" for His precious name.

Turn the cane upside down. What do you see?
The staff of the Shepherd, who loves you and me. 

The candy cane's message is love, oh, so sweet;
So merciful, so gracious, so divine -- what a treat!

In this Christmas season, wherever you go;
Share the candy's sweet treasure, with all whom you know.

Tell of God's goodness -- His love -- and His desire,
To redeem man from sin, and to save from the fire.

To give to all people, the gift that is free:

Eternal life with Jesus,
True Hope for you. . .and for me!

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This CHRISTmas, may the *God of Hope** fill you
with all joy and peace in believing. *Jesus

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Advent Hope

*1 Pet 1:13 Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind**, be sober, and **hope** to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*

The Greek word translated as “**gird up**” is nepho. it means to abstain from wine (keep sober), (fig.) be discreet:--be sober, watch.

In ancient times, people gathered up their long robes to prepare to do physical work, to walk fast, or to run in a race. Be they farmers heading out into the fields, soldiers going off to battle, or runners in a race, they girded up their clothing to do their work. Peter tells us to gird up our minds, to be sober, and to have HOPE to do our work until Jesus returns.

During this time of Advent, be diligent to share the hope, love, joy, and peace of Jesus.

We have a present hope, an enduring hope, and a future hope. We look forward with knowledge of what is to be and a confidence that God will bring it about—*that's true hope!*

Our Blessed Hope came to us in a cradle. He will come again for us in the clouds.



Advent Week 1



A Candle of Hope

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Advent Hope

What is Advent?

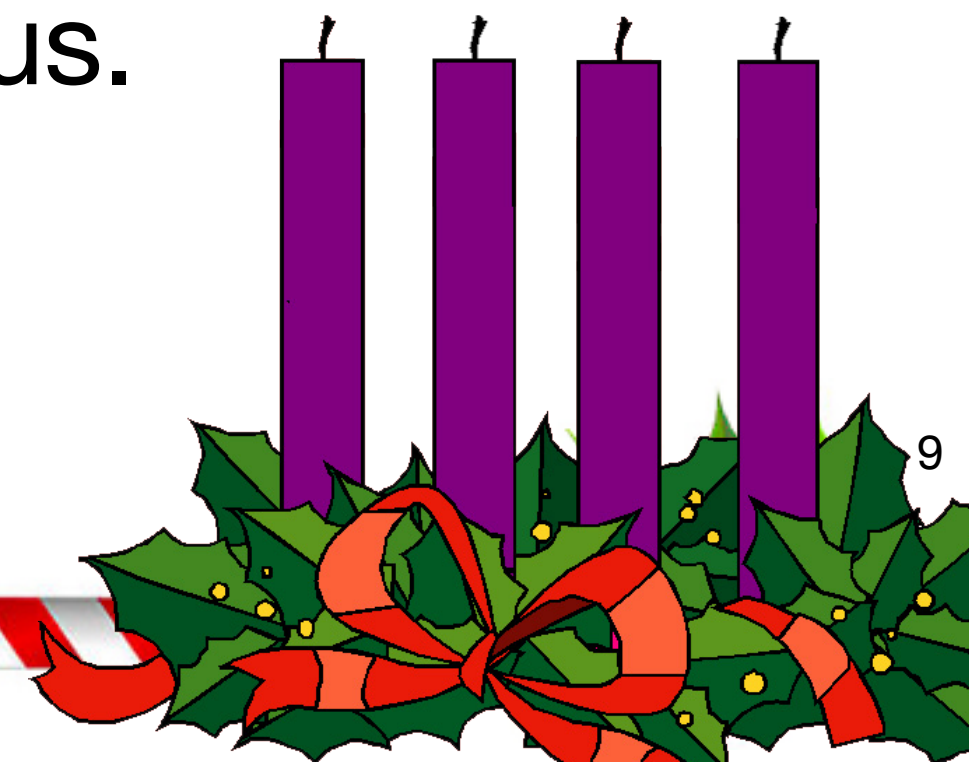
From the Latin word “*adventus*,” meaning *arrival*.

In the church it is:

- the four weeks preceding the celebration of the birth of our Lord.
- much like Lent that precedes Easter.
- a time of reflection and remembering.
- a long and steady gaze, upward and forward.

Let’s “walk through the Word” during the days of Advent, and light our candles of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace, looking up, with eyes fixed upon our True Hope, Jesus.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...



Advent Hope

Christmas Advent Candle 1 – Advent starts with HOPE: Prophecy Gives Hope

We light an Advent candle each Sunday leading up to Christmas to prepare our hearts by
1. renewing our hope, 2. growing our love, 3. rejoicing in Christ, and 4. finding rest and peace.

Week One of Advent is the Candle of Hope

- In ancient times, God gave His people Israel hope by speaking to them through the prophets. and revealing what was to come.
- He told of the blessings they would receive when Jesus, their Messiah, would dwell with them.
- The people looked forward to the coming of their Messiah and His Kingdom with hope.

We find the same hope when we read the words of the prophets. Christ has come and our hope is in Him, sure and steadfast, an anchor for the soul ([Heb 6:19](#)) — a hope that is eternal.

Reflect on the prophecies of old that have been fulfilled in the Person and works of Jesus Christ.





Advent Hope

Prophecy: [Isaiah 7:14](#) Fulfillment: [Matthew 1:23](#)

Prophecy: [Isaiah 9:6](#) Fulfillment: [Matthew 1:23](#), [Luke 1:31](#)

Prophecy: [Isaiah 9:6](#) Fulfillment: [Luke 2:11-12](#), [Luke 4:18-19](#), [John 3:16-17](#)

Ponder the wonder of Christ's birth and rejoice in God's gift of Jesus being born.

Consider how Deity transcended time and space, and entered into humanity.

Reflect on how Jesus, the Lord of Glory, humbled himself and came to earth; how the Royal One, the King of kings, entered into poverty.

Rejoice that on that dark night centuries ago, True Light entered our world in the form of a lowly infant.

Give thanks for the Light of Jesus in your life and, just as John the Baptist testified of the True Light, be ready to be a witness to the Light of Christmas —the Lord Jesus Christ.

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May the God of Hope
fill you with all joy and
Peace in believing, that you
may abound in hope
by the power of
the Holy Spirit.
Rom 15:13



Advent Hope

Prior to Jesus' first advent, God gave hope to His people through prophecy, by telling them of the blessings to come.

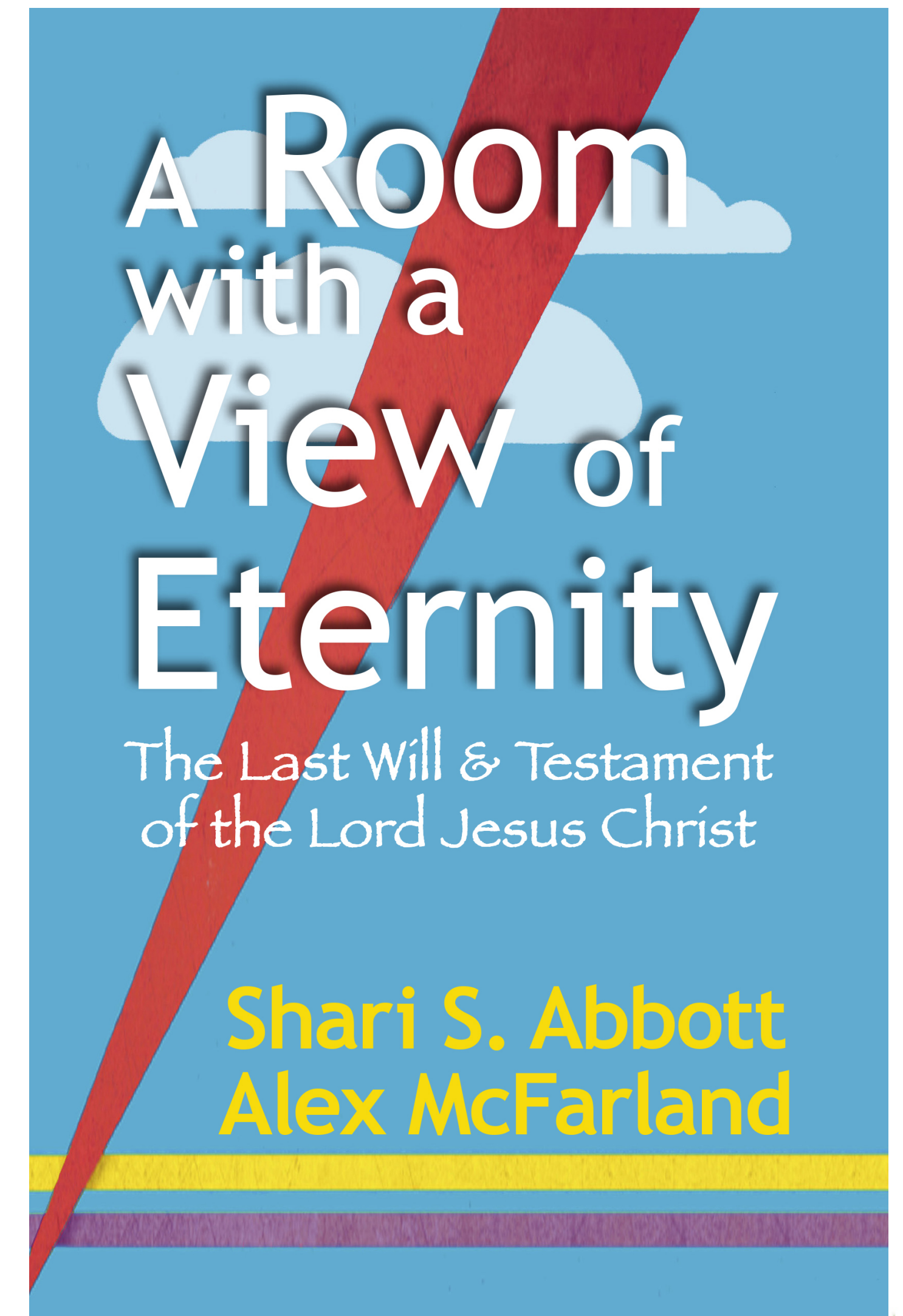
So also, Jesus gave hope to His disciples in the Upper Room by telling them of the precious gifts He would give them after His death.

In John 17, we read of Jesus bequeathing His life, words, joy, protection, glory, and love to all who will come to Him in faith.

Read more about this in the book

Room with a View of Eternity
the Last Will & Testament of the Lord Jesus Christ
by Shari Abbott and Alex McFarland

Available at www.reasonsforhopeJesus.com/store/





PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM
ALL BLESSINGS FLOW