



1st Reader: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation.

When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

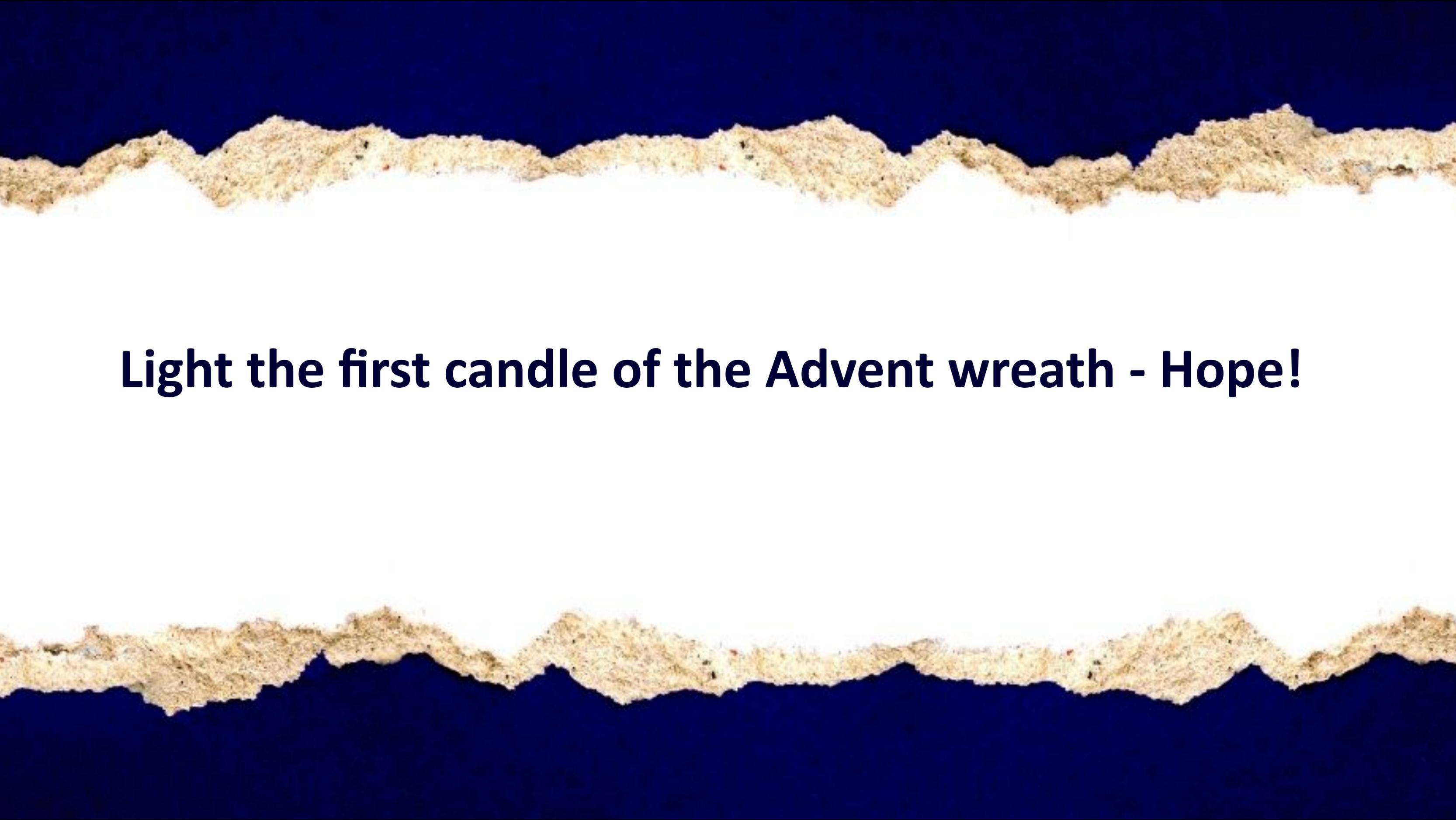




2nd Reader: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.





Light the first candle of the Advent wreath - Hope!



HOPE COMING SOON



Hope - according to Merriam-Webster:

- 1. desire accompanied by expectation of obtaining what is desired or belief that it is obtainable**
 - 2. someone or something on which hopes are centered**
 - 3. to expect with confidence: Trust**
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Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

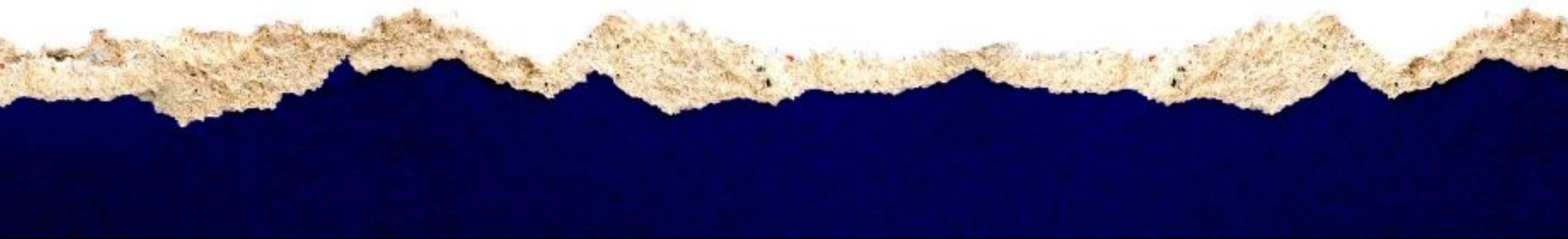
Hebrews 11:1





Advent 1: Coming of Hope

1. Jesus is the Hope, the Light of the World!





“Look at what was happening at the time of the birth of Jesus—violence, injustice, abuse of power, homelessness, refugees fleeing oppression, families ripped apart, and bottomless grief. Sounds exactly like today.”

Timothy Keller

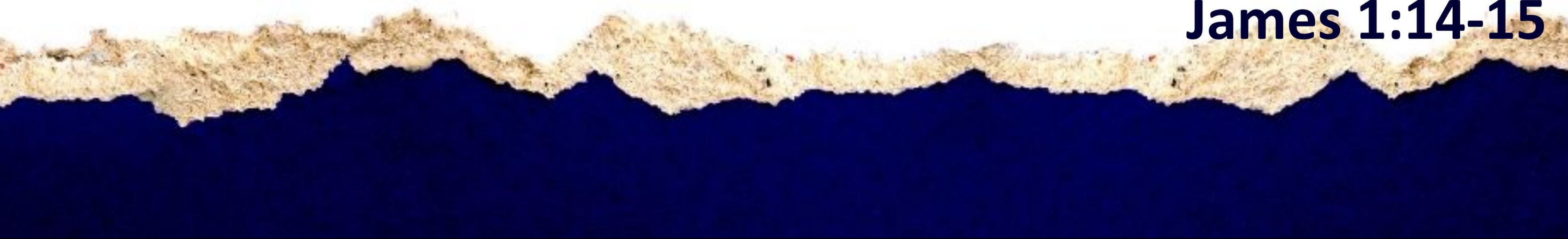
Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ





¹⁴ But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; ¹⁵ then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

James 1:14-15





**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light
has shined.**

**For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority
rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:2,6





In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

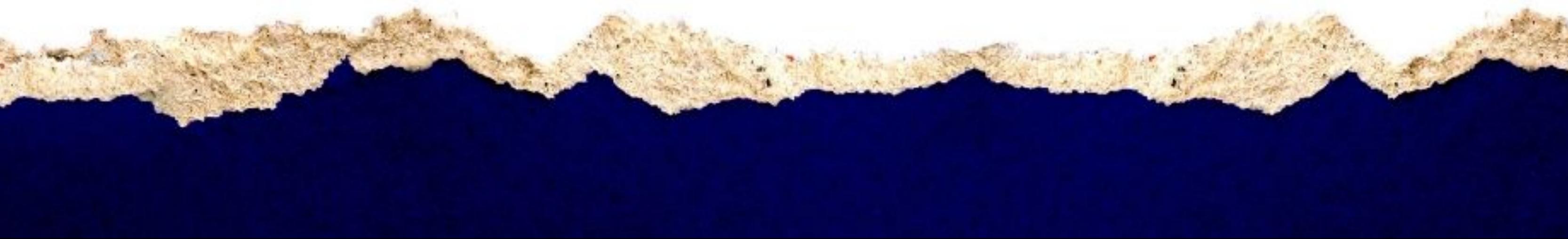
John 1:1-3a





What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1:3b-5





Advent 1: Coming of Hope

- 1. Jesus is the Hope, the Light of the World!**
 - 2. Christ our Hope is Coming Soon!**
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See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22:12-13





Advent 1: Coming of Hope

- 1. Jesus is the Hope, the Light of the World!**
 - 2. Christ our Hope is Coming Soon!**
 - 3. Prepare the way of the Lord!**
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HOPE COMING SOON