

Hope



Leah Newton Art

St Aidan's Uniting Church
30th November 2025
Advent 1

Call to Worship

From Christmas Bowl resources

We come, ready to find ourselves
in the company of God.

**We come, seeking God's ways
of justice and peace.**

The night is far gone, the day is near.

**We wake from our sleep,
to walk in God's light.**

Nations shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.

**We long for the day
when war shall be no more.**

Come, people of God,
let us worship the One who calls us.

**We come to learn God's ways,
to walk in Christ's light,
and to live in peace.**

Advent Candle

This is the hope candle.

It is a candle that shines brightly in darkness,
and shares its light generously.

Hope is a verb –
it is a driving action
to live out God's hope for our world;
the hopes we hear
enacted in the Christ-story.

We light the candle of hope.

Prayers

God of hope,
you came and shared love with our world;
we confess that we have not
followed that example
and our world is poorer for it.

When our actions take hope away
from the people who need it the most:

God of hope, forgive us.

When we misunderstand hope
and refuse to let it change us:

God of hope, forgive us.

When we hold onto what was
rather than looking towards the
resurrection experience:

God of hope, forgive us.

When we build temples to our ideas,
especially our ideas of God,
and not accept when they are torn down:

God of hope, forgive us.

When we beat our ploughshares into swords
and spears into pruning hooks,
and so create violence at the expense of dinner:

God of hope, forgive us.

Help us, O God, to look to your day
with hope and courage,
that the end of this age will not dismay us,
and the age to come be an adventure.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hope reminds us that God's gift of grace
is a gift for all of us.

God reaches out to us before we approach,
and helps us to live God reign afresh.

Know that you are forgiven:

thanks be to God.

Prayer of Intercession

From Christmas Bowl resources

Lord Jesus, our hope and our help,
we bring to you prayers for the world.

We lift our hearts to the Lord of peace.

God of faithfulness and truth,
we pray for those whose names we do not know,
whose stories rarely make the news,
and whose afflictions fade quickly from our sight.

All are known to you and loved by you.

We pray for Ethiopia,
where too many families are displaced,
where poverty runs deep,
and despair seems never-ending.

Christ, be present among the weary and exiled.

We give thanks for those who offer
compassionate care, food, and shelter
in times of need.

May your mercy shine in every act of care.

Strengthen the work of rebuilding,
that all may find sustainable incomes
and restored dignity.

May despair be turned into joy.

We pray for children longing for safety,
for parents striving to provide,
for communities dreaming of a place to call home.

Let your kingdom come, O God of peace.

In this Advent season of watching and waiting, we pray for those who wait with anxiety.

Teach us to walk in your light, to share what we have, to seek justice with compassion.

**For Christ is our hope, now and always.
Amen.**

Benediction & Blessing

Go out sharing hope,
see in your life the times of resurrection
and rebuilding from ashes
even when you thought all was destroyed.

And take that hope,
live that hope,
so the people around you, may too,
experience that hope in their lives.

Go knowing that God is with you,
beside you, before you –
God the Parent, Christ, and Spirit.

Amen.