

Romans 8:18

Series – FutureHope

Message – The Weight of Hope

December 1, 2024

Fifth Reformed Church

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- Our English word, *Advent*, is derived from the Latin *adventus*, which is a translation of the Greek word, *parousia*, which means presence, \_\_\_\_\_, or arrival.
- *Parousia* refers to the time when Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, the time when – according to the Bible – God will set all things right and make everything sad come untrue.

### The Big Question

- Is there any \_\_\_\_\_ of hope?

- Hope and history don't rhyme... so what do we do?

### The Big Ask

- “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down...” (Isaiah 64:1).



### The Big Idea

- Psalm 106:43-45
- Hope \_\_\_\_\_ more than hopelessness.

### The Big Challenge

- How do you turn your eyes toward Jesus in times of suffering when the darkness and despair feel so pressing?
- “The gospel does not protect us from suffering; it protects us from despair.”
- What to do:
  - Psalms of Lament
  - Christian Community
  - Worship
  - Listen to the Story

### How will you respond to God's word today?

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1. Where have you encountered a struggle with hopelessness recently (either your or another person's struggle)?
2. How does the fact that “hope and history don't rhyme” impact your faith today? Do you see that as a big challenge or a small hurdle? Why?
3. A significant piece of emotional and mental health is the ability to “imagine a hopeful future.” What parts of your faith or spiritual practices help you to imagine a hopeful future?
4. Read Isaiah 63:1-3 aloud. Have you ever experienced worship (a garment of praise) as a powerful remedy to a spirit of despair? Share about that experience.
5. How might God be getting your attention?
6. What might God be saying to you?
7. What are you going to do about it?