

## Advent Hope

In this second week of Advent, we have seen signs of hope especially significant in this year of pandemic. The first doses of a COVID-19 vaccine were given in the United Kingdom this week, and a vaccine may be approved for use in the U.S. in a matter of days. With this hope, the need for living cautiously to protect others as well as our selves must continue for the foreseeable future, and while these signs of hope do not signify the end of the pandemic, they do offer the likelihood that the end to it is possible and coming. These are signals the world needs just now.

The blessings of hope and possibility are key parts of Advent itself. The coming of Jesus brought world changing possibilities to those who hear his words and follow his leading. When we embrace the Christ Child, we change our lives and those of the people around us. We can live in hope not despair, reaching out to others with love and forbearance not suspicion, anger, or hate. Embrace hope this season!

### This week, pray for:

- the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Help all of us continue to do all we can to keep each other as safe as we can. Remember those who are caring for the sick & the dying. Remember those who are suffering. Pray for those working on vaccines & treatments. Pray for those who are preparing for and planning for the distribution of vaccines when they become available.
- **Refugees and all who are homeless as winter comes.**
- **those dealing with storms, fires, flooding, earthquakes, & other disasters**
- **Nigeria**. An Amnesty International report confirms that, in addition to facing the violence of Boko Haram, Nigerians face the violence of their own government. Since 2011, at least 10,000 civilians have died in Nigerian military custody. . .
- **Those living with war**, especially pray for children who have never lived without war.



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