



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Joyous Hope

Reader One:

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’” (Psalm 122:1)

Reader Two:

We gather with hearts full of **joyous hope**—not only here, but with believers across continents and cultures. From bustling cities to quiet villages, the longing for light and restoration unites us all. Whether we arrived in person or joined from afar, we come together as a people longing for light, for restoration, for the promise of God’s kingdom. This is a place where hope is not just whispered but sung, where we wait with anticipation for what is to come.

Reader One:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord... that God may teach us God’s ways and that we may walk in God’s paths.” (Isaiah 2:3)

Reader Two:

We light this candle as a sign of our **joyous hope**— a hope that renews our faith, strengthens our spirits, and that spans the globe, reminding every nation and people that God is not finished with us yet.

Light the first candle.

