

ADVENT 2020

DECEMBER 13, 2020





ACTS 24:26 (NLT)

He also **hoped** that Paul would bribe him, so he sent for him quite often and talked with him.



ROMANS 15:24 (ESV)

I **hope** to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.



3 JOHN 14 (ESV)

I **hope** to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.



LAMENTATIONS 1:1 (NLT)

Jerusalem, once so full of people, is now deserted. She who was once great among the nations now sits alone like a widow. Once the queen of all the earth, she is now a slave.



LAMENTATIONS 2:11 (NLT)

I have cried until the tears no longer come; my heart is broken. My spirit is poured out in agony as I see the desperate plight of my people.



LAMENTATIONS 3:17 (MSG)

I gave up on life altogether. I've forgotten what the good life is like.



LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23 (ESV)

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.



ISAIAH 9:6-7a (NIV)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.



ISAIAH 9:1-2 (NIV)

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of **Zebulun** and the land of **Naphtali**, but in the future he will honor **Galilee** of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.



MATTHEW 4:12-14 (ESV)

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled



1 CORINTHIANS 15:57 (NLT)

But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.



Pastor James Van Tholen

This truth has come home to me as I've been thinking what it will mean to die. The same friends I enjoy now will get together a year, and three years, and twenty years from now, and I will not be there, not even in the conversation. Life will go on. In this church you will call a new minister with new gifts and a new future, and eventually I'll fade from your mind and memory. I understand. The same thing has happened to my own memories of others.



2 TIMOTHY 1:10 (NLT)

And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News.



Pastor James Van Tholen

I'm dying. Maybe it will take longer instead of shorter; maybe I'll preach for several months, and maybe for a bit more. But I am dying. I know it, and I hate it, and I'm still frightened by it. But there is hope, unwavering hope. I have hope not in something I've done, some purity I've maintained, or some sermon I've written. I hope in God—the God who reaches out for an enemy, saves a sinner, dies for the weak. That's the gospel, and I can stake my life on it. I must. And so must you.