



## Advent – week 1 – The Candle of Hope

### ***Explain the Context:***

From your reading provide a short answer to the following:

<b>What</b> is the theme of these verses?	<b>What</b> is the BIG Idea?
<b>What</b> is something that surprised you?	<b>What</b> are these verses <i>not</i> saying?

~ This year Bram and Sandi are celebrating Advent with the readings from the Book of Common Prayer. Week one is focused on the Prophets and the Hope they expressed in the promise of a Messiah.

Readings for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent:

### ***Isaiah 64:1-9***

- 1) The writer of this chapter is pleading with God to defend them from their enemies. He prophetically asks God to “tear open the heavens and come down”. In what way did God “come down”?

2) Have you ever prayed a prayer like this? How did God show up for you?

3) How does declaring “I am the clay” give you hope? What does it mean for you to have Hope?

***Mark 13:24-37***

1) The gospel reading of Mark foretells of a time when the Son of Man will return with “great power and glory”. This telling is a repeat of the plea from the book of Isaiah for God to come to his defense. Jesus tells the story of the Fig tree and another about the master of the house going on a journey and reminds the servants that they don’t know when he will return. Jesus tells us to “Keep awake!” How do the words of Jesus bring comfort and hope to you?

## ***Apply the Scripture***

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

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How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

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### **For further study:**

- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9