

****Weekly Devotion – Advent 1: Vigilant Hope****

****“Staying Awake to Hope”****

Isaiah 2:1–5; Mark 13:24–37

****Scripture Focus****

“Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.” — Isaiah 2:5

“And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” — Mark 13:37

****Reflection****

Advent begins in the dark—not as punishment, but as preparation. These early winter weeks hold space for every place in our lives that longs for light. Isaiah paints a breathtaking picture of God’s future, while Jesus calls us to stay awake to God’s presence here and now.

This week brought a living example of vigilant hope: a high school rower in Philadelphia who noticed a faint splash in heavy fog and told her team to stop. Her attentiveness saved a kayaker who had capsized in icy water. She stayed awake. She paid attention. And because she did, someone lived.

Advent invites us into that same posture—listening for need, watching for light, trusting that hope often begins with one small act of awareness.

****Prayer****

Holy One, awaken my heart this week. Help me stay alert to your presence—in small kindnesses, in whispered prayers, in the needs of my neighbor, and in the quiet ways you bring light into the world. Give me courage to walk in your light and trust to keep watch in hope. Amen.

****Practice for the Week: One Moment of Vigilance****

Each day, pause for one minute and ask: Where did I notice hope today?

Write down one small moment. By week's end, you'll have a gentle collection of God's light breaking through.