**The First Sunday of Advent - Hope**

Watch and wait for Christ’s coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,

remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

(Light the first candle.)

Hear God’s promise of hope from Isaiah 2:

 In days to come

 the mountain of the Lord’s house

 shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

 and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

 Many peoples shall come and say,

 “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

 to the house of the God of Jacob;

 that he may teach us his ways

 and that we may walk in his paths.”

 For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

 He shall judge between the nations,

 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

 they shall beat their swords into plowshares,

 and their spears into pruning hooks;

 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

 neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us pray:

 Faithful God,

 out of the world’s chaos,

 you bring the order of peace.

 Renew us in hope,

 that we may work toward

 Christ’s advent of peace

 among all nations.

 God of promise, God of hope,

 into our darkness come. Amen.