

# Stewardship Focus

## Advent Week 1: HOPE

*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”*  
Matthew 3:2

As we find ourselves in the middle of the first week of Advent, we are inclined to reflect on HOPE. Hope in the form of a baby King who unassumingly enters our dark world in a humble way, with His young mother and father, surrounded by a silent night and some barn animals.

It's sort of a grim scene. Isolating. How can this be our hope?

John the Baptist calls for repentance—a turning of the heart that opens space for hope to take root. Hope grows when we clear away whatever blocks our view of Christ. Advent reminds us that God is moving even when life feels like a wilderness.

### Personal Reflection:

**Where do I need to “prepare the way” in my heart?** Choose one small act this week—returning to prayer, reconciling with someone, or letting go of a burden—that creates room for Christ's hope.

### Words of Praise:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*“O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.”*

### Prayer:

Lord, stir my heart to repentance. Fill me with hope as I prepare the way for Christ. Amen.

