

Dear United Church Members and Friends,

This Sunday we'll continue the readings and sermon series on HOPE, recognizing that we also hope for the JOY that comes with Advent and Christmas (as we light the pink candle in worship). Our readings are from Matthew and Luke. In Matthew, John the Baptist sends word to Jesus from prison asking if he is the one who is to come... or will there be another? If that doesn't illustrate the complexity of "hope", I don't know what does. Even in the midst of Jesus' incredible ministry and John's imprisonment and impending death, there is the mixture of realized and unrealized hope, doubt and dire circumstance. How does hope have a greater say in all this (does it)? In Luke we will read the first part of Mary's words of praise we know as the Magnificat. Although her joy is obvious in the opening words, does it lead to hope? May these two readings give us another angle of this incredible, but hard to define, word and theme of HOPE.

Join us for worship this 3rd Sunday of Advent at 9:30am in the Sanctuary or online at unitedchurchla.org.

Scripture Readings: Matthew 11:2-10; Luke 1:46-49

Sermon: "Living By Hope"

Classes for all ages begin at 11am.

GIFTS NEEDED for Truchas Pre-School Christmas Party (on Thursday, December 18th). We still need quite a few gift items (they will be packed up on December 14th)... but you can bring them to the church office this afternoon, Fellowship Hall on Sunday, and Monday!

DIGNITY MISSION packing party will be tomorrow, Saturday, December 13 in Graves Hall. Gather for coffee and refreshments at 9:15am... work begins at 9:30am.

The CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR will be rehearsing on Monday, December 22 at 7pm in the Sanctuary. You're invited to join the choir in singing!

ALTERNATIVE GIVING tables will be open in the Fellowship Hall after worship for the next two Sundays.

Grace and peace, David