

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### Finding Hope in our Uncertainties

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor  
November 29, 2020  
Advent - Hope



#### Advent is an invitation to align ourselves with God's presence more than just the hectic season of presents.

Luke 2:22, 25-38 (NLT): Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...

<sup>25</sup> At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him <sup>26</sup> and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. <sup>30</sup> I have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared for all people. <sup>32</sup> He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!" <sup>33</sup> Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. <sup>35</sup> As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

<sup>36</sup> Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. <sup>37</sup> Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. <sup>38</sup> She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

#### What can we learn about the power of hope in our lives?

- **Hope sees beyond.**

Romans 8:24-26 (NLT) "We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. <sup>25</sup> But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.) <sup>26</sup> And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."

- **God is with us—here, now, & always.**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (Isaiah 43:1-2, NIV)

- **Hope inspires and infuses us to carry on.**

Romans 5:2-5 (NLT) "And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

#### What is your next step towards hope today?

**Big Idea: Find hope today in the Advent "coming" of Jesus Christ.**

#### Give hope to others this Christmas.

This week's Missional Challenge: Manger Kit.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Finding Hope in our Uncertainties  
#1 of 5 - November 29, 2020**

- 1) Which “promise” from the 100 Days of Impact was most significant for you this week and why? Where have you seen God working as you engage with the weekly Missional Challenges?
- 2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?
- 3) How would you define hope? Read Luke 2:22-38. How do Simeon and Anna demonstrate true hope?
- 4) Read Romans 8:24-26. What does this tell us about hope? Discuss the following statement: *“But hope is the willingness and desire to believe beyond what our present circumstances and reality are presenting to us.”* How does this resonate with your personal experience?
- 5) What are the things in your life that erode your hope and how does the reality of Immanuel “God with us” help bolster your hope? How will you apply this truth this week?
- 6) Read Romans 5:2-5. Describe the cycle of hope in your own words. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit inspire and infuse hope in us?
- 7) What step will you take this week to find hope in the Advent of Jesus Christ?
- 8) In what ways can you extend hope to others this Christmas season as individuals and as an IC family?



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Finding Hope in our Uncertainties  
#1 of 5 - November 29, 2020**

- 1) Which “promise” from the 100 Days of Impact was most significant for you this week and why? Where have you seen God working as you engage with the weekly Missional Challenges?
- 2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?
- 3) How would you define hope? Read Luke 2:22-38. How do Simeon and Anna demonstrate true hope?
- 4) Read Romans 8:24-26. What does this tell us about hope? Discuss the following statement: *“But hope is the willingness and desire to believe beyond what our present circumstances and reality are presenting to us.”* How does this resonate with your personal experience?
- 5) What are the things in your life that erode your hope and how does the reality of Immanuel “God with us” help bolster your hope? How will you apply this truth this week?
- 6) Read Romans 5:2-5. Describe the cycle of hope in your own words. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit inspire and infuse hope in us?
- 7) What step will you take this week to find hope in the Advent of Jesus Christ?
- 8) In what ways can you extend hope to others this Christmas season as individuals and as an IC family?