

HOPE – With McNair and Debi Tornow

McNair: Today we light the first candle of Advent. The candle of hope.

(Debi lights candle)

McNair: Our scripture of hope comes from Isaiah 2:1-5

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amos saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Debi (or McNair): A story of hope from our family to yours.

McNair

When we were asked to do the Advent reading on hope, I had immediately decided what I was going to briefly talk about so when I saw the selected scripture, I truly found it prophetic that not only is the scripture right on point but says it much better than I could.

Having lived through and survived Vietnam, civil rights, and terror both domestically and abroad, and seeing this nation torn apart, I am seriously concerned about the legacy we

have left our kids and grandkids to deal with. So, my hope is that this candle of hope burns brightly and is not extinguished and that this embracement of hope and getting along and working together needs to start here, with our congregation, and be a beacon to others.

Debi: Let us pray. Dear God, thank you for your son who is the giver of hope. When we fail to see hope in the distance, we can look to Christ for inspiration. Your love gives us the greatest hope of all. In Christ's name, Amen.