



| **Saturday, December 8**

Advent: Season of Hope

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:12

When is the last time you ‘abounded in hope’? And what does it even mean to “hope”? The Merriam-Webster dictionary says that to hope is to “expect with confidence.” Perhaps for many of us it is a challenge to hope—to expect with confidence—as Paul writes in this letter to the Romans. As we look around at our world, our lives, and our relationships, it may not be difficult to feel a lack of hope or to see reason for despair and discouragement.

Somewhere during the four weeks of Advent we may be distracted from hope and instead be stressed or sidelined by the many preparations for Christmas and all the festivities to come.

But look again at this one sentence from Paul’s letter. We can see that hopefulness does not depend upon our ability to “expect with confidence” alone. As we wait for the coming of the Christ Child we can be assured that our God is indeed a God of hope and by the power of the Holy Spirit will fill us with all joy and peace in believing!

God of hope, as we wait for your coming may we expect with confidence that your Holy Spirit will fill us with joy, peace and hope. Amen.

- Sue Gustner