

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL HOPE IN A TIME OF COVID

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

JOB 29:2-3

AS IN THE DAYS WHEN GOD WATCHED
OVER ME, WHEN HIS LAMP SHONE OVER
MY HEAD, AND BY HIS LIGHT I WALKED
THROUGH DARKNESS



I have been watching the "Great British Baking Show", a baking competition.

For some of the recipes baked on the show, there comes a time when the cake needs time to bake, or the dough needs to rise, or the food needs to cool. The cake will take 45 minutes in the oven. The gelatin will need a couple of hours to set. The dough will need to rise for an hour. The frosting can't be spread on until the baked good cools down.

Despite their food taking time in waiting, the contestants never find a moment of "down time". With the clock on the challenge ticking by and plenty of other tasks to complete, when their food is sitting, the contestants have frosting to make, decorations to create, and more ingredients to prepare. All with their hopes set on being named the "Star Baker" of the episode, and ultimately winning the competition.

Of course, no good show is without highlighting the mistakes and frustrations. Cakes don't bake right, flavors don't mix like planned, cookies break, and the clock runs out.

A good analogy for life, like this baking competition show, there are times when we wait. Waiting on the birth of Jesus. But in the waiting time, there is still plenty of kingdom-work that needs to be done.

And there are plenty of mistakes and frustrations along the way. Mistakes, frustrations, pain, and sadness that come all the time in big and small ways throughout our lives.

In the waiting, working, and struggling of life, with our hopes set on the steadfastness of God's love and grace, and the hope of redemption in Christ, anything is possible. God watches over us and shines a light for us, so that our struggles don't have the final say and that hope is always present.

GOD OF LOVE AND HOPE,
GUIDE US IN OUR WAITING, ASSIST US
IN OUR WORKING, MAKE YOUR
PRESENCE KNOWN WITH US IN OUR
STRUGGLES. BE OUR BEACON OF
HOPE. THIS ADVENT AND ALWAYS,
AMEN.



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