EIBC Devotional #25 - "Hope"
Emerald Isle Baptist Church
Pastor Zach Emory

Scripture - Psalm 80:1-3

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are
enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth 2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and
Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us! 3 Restore us, O God; let your face
shine, that we may be saved.

The focus for the first Sunday of Advent is "hope." As we enter this season of coldness and darkness, all of creation eagerly awaits for the Christ light to shine upon us through the coming of Jesus of Nazareth. Psalm 80 also longs for God's restoration of creation. The psalmist repeats the refrain, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." We know that his prayer will be answered as God begins to usher in His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven through the coming of the Messiah. We may find ourselves asking for the same thing as the psalmist: "Stir up your might, and come to save us!" Advent is a reminder that God always makes a way for us in our times of need and despair. These coming weeks are a reminder that we should remain optimistic. God has not forgotten His creation, and He is always making a way for us. My favorite Christmas song is "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The song opens with the words, "O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears." The refrain captures that for which we should be hopeful: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel." Let us eagerly await the coming of the Messiah, so that our sorrow and hope may be met with joy and fulfillment.

Questions for Reflection

What are you hoping for in this season of life?

How might you remain optimistic and trusting as you wait on God's deliverance?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, thank you for making a way for us. During this time of advent, may we longingly anticipate the arrival of the Messiah to deliver us from our captivity. In Jesus' name. *Amen*.