

What does God require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God. — Micah 6:8

The Season of Advent

Every year, for the season of Advent, the Worship Council and staff typically choose a theme to focus on for our worship together. This year, after much discussion, we decided that instead of selecting a new theme we would simply focus on the four words of Advent: hope, peace, joy, and love. Reflecting on these basic tenants of the season and of our faith feels like a wise thing to do this year.

As I have thought about my own preparation for Advent, I have chosen to focus my attention and reflection on where I am *feeling* hope, peace, joy, and love in my own life and soul and where I am *seeing* hope, peace, joy, and love in the world. We often talk about faith as a journey inward and a journey outward. It is easy to get this inward/outward journey out of balance—focusing more on one than the other. However, a friend recently reminded me that a life of faith is both: inward and outward; being and acting. I was grateful for being reminded of this simple, yet profound truth going into this season of Advent.

Some of the questions I will be living with over the next four weeks include:

- ★ Where am I feeling hopeful and how am I nurturing hope in my heart and soul?
Where do I see hope in the world and where am I offering hope to others?
- ★ What do I need to have peace of mind, heart, and soul? What am I doing to promote peace in the world?
- ★ Where do I feel joy? How am I bringing joy to others?
- ★ How can I best love myself? How can I best love others?

This advent season, I invite you to join me in living into these questions .

—Nancy

