

Series: Advent Hope

Sunday, November 30.

COMING HOME:

1. THE VOICE OF C.....

(Isaiah 40:1-2; see also 1 John 2:1-2; Matthew 11:28)

- God spoke first to the exiles, calling them home with tender words before they even sought Him. Their hard service was complete, their sin paid for.
- Through Jesus, God speaks the same comfort to us today. Our sins have been fully paid for. He invites us: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). The question is: will we come home, or stay in exile?

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2. THE VOICE IN THE W

(Isaiah 40:3-8; see also Matthew 3:1-3; John 1:14; 14:6)

- The exiles could have worried about the impossible journey home or their own personal weaknesses. But this voice declared that God would level the mountains and make a highway through the wilderness. God's Word endures even when we wither like grass.
- We might feel "I just can't do it—I'm too weak, too broken, too far gone." But we don't look to ourselves. We look to Jesus, God's glory revealed and the Word made flesh (John 1:14). He is "the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6) and our Highway through the impossible wilderness.
- When the journey seems impossible and your weaknesses overwhelming, are you looking to yourself or to Jesus?

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Turn page over for #3

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3. THE VOICE OF THE H

(Isaiah 40:9-11; See also John 10:11)

- The herald announced to the exiles: "Here is your God!"—both powerful enough to bring them home and tender enough to carry the weakest lamb. He doesn't drive His flock; He carries them close to His heart.
- Jesus is this Good Shepherd (John 10:11). He's the One who calls us home, makes the way home, and personally brings us home. When you're weakest and most vulnerable, He gathers you in His arms and holds you close to His heart. You don't have to make the journey in your own strength—He carries you!
- Are you trying to make the journey home on your own, or are you letting the Shepherd carry you?

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We Can Trust God With Hope Because:

- God has paid for our sins, through Jesus. He comforts us and calls us home.
- Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is our Highway through the wilderness, on the journey home.
- Christ is powerful, sovereign and also our tender Shepherd. He is the One who will safely lead us home.

Prayer: "Father, thank you for calling out to me first, when I wasn't even seeking you. You speak words of comfort, and call me home. When I feel that the journey is too difficult, help me not to look to myself, but to look to Jesus—my Highway through the wilderness and my Good Shepherd who carries me. Help me trust you with great hope this Advent. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Verses To Meditate On This Week:

"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." – Isaiah 40:8

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young." – Isaiah 40:11

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