

GOD

WITH

US

ADVENT 2021

WEEK #1 : HOPE





“Freedom From Want” Norman Rockwell, 1943

1. The With-ness of God
2. The Hope FOR With-Ness
3. The Hope OF With-Ness



John 1

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning *with* God. ³ All things were made through him, and *without* him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



The With-Ness of God

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning *with* God.



PeriChoresis

Dance + Around
The Divine Dance

Holy, Holy, Holy



The With-Ness of God

“[Christians] believe that the living, dynamic activity of love has been going on in God forever and has created everything else. And that, by the way, is perhaps the most important difference between Christianity and all other religions: that in Christianity God is not an impersonal thing nor a static thing — not even just one person — but a dynamic pulsating activity, a life, a kind of drama, almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a **kind of dance.**”

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



The With-Ness of God



Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let us make man
in our image, after our likeness.

Genesis 2:18

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good
that the man should be alone; I will
make him a helper fit for him.”



The With-Ness of God



Genesis 3:15

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Genesis 3:24

He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.



Our Hope FOR With-Ness

We've been searching
for Eden ever since

Intimacy / Attachment Disorder



Connected, not With



Our Hope FOR With-Ness

WithNess is our Greatest:

Desire & Fear

Pleasure & Pain

Hope



Our Hope FOR With-Ness

What is Hope to Me?

That thing that will rescue me
and make me whole



Our Hope FOR With-Ness

There are only two places to look for hope. You can search for it horizontally, thinking that something in creation will give you the security, peace and inner sense of well-being that you seek, or you can seek it vertically, entrusting your life into the loving hands of your Creator.

Paul David Tripp,
New Morning Mercies



Our Hope FOR With-Ness

Psalm 20

⁶ Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;
he will answer him from his holy heaven
with the saving might of his right hand.

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

⁸ They collapse and fall,
but we rise and stand upright.



Our Hope FOR With-Ness

What are my Hopes?

That which will rescue me
and make me whole.

Investing in a Future Promise
that gives Present Satisfaction



Our Hope **OF** With-Ness

Hope Came to Us

Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).



Our Hope **OF** With-Ness

John 14

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.



Our Hope **OF** With-Ness

Romans 5:2

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Our Hope is to be reunited
with Christ and by Christ



Living Hope

John 1

⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

“Our meditation must be directed toward God; otherwise we may spend our time...in quiet conversation with ourselves. This may quiet our nerves but will not further our spiritual life in any way.”

A.W. Tozer



Living Hope

John 1

⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The first 15 minutes of stillness prayer are a time of warfare and struggle. The soul is like an onion that need to be peeled back, layer by layer.

Evelyn Underhill



Living Hope

John 1

⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

