



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: God With Us in Despair
Speaker: Sherin Swift – Connections & Equipping Pastor
Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-2

9 ^{1a} Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

Sermon Summary:

In the first week of Advent, we light the candle of Hope. Pastor Sherin opens our Advent sermon series by considering how we walk as people of hope when we are surrounded by so many reasons for despair.

Sermon Questions:

1. Read Isaiah 9:1-2 and Matthew 4: 12-17. What do you notice? What connections do you see between them?
2. What are ways you seek to escape or hide from despair (yours or others) instead of allowing Jesus to enter in with you? Pastor Sherin shared her tendency to want to disengage or withdraw and Pastor Jackie talked about the desire to stay hidden under the covers and turn to isolation.
3. Why do you think it is important for us to enter into despair as Jesus does instead of running from it? What is the importance of a supportive community when we or others are in a place of despair?

(Pastor Sherin shared, “When we allow Jesus to walk with us and transform us through despair, we become people of light and hope in the darkness of the world.”)

4. Where are you in need of light and hope today? What places of despair are you or others you care about experiencing?
5. Where and with whom is Jesus inviting you to shine his light of hope this week?