

Shinning With God's Light....

Questions for discussion...

What is your definition of hope?

High hopes ~

When you were growing up, what hopes did you have for your life? Which of these hopes do you still have? Which have been fulfilled?

When you were growing up, what hopes did your parents or other adults have for your life? What hopes did you have for your own children or other young people in your life? Which of these hopes do they/you still have?

What hopes, do you think, does God have for your life?
What are you doing to realize those hopes today?

Shinning hope ~

What gift will you give this Christmas that will bring someone else God's gift of hope?

What gift will you ask for this Christmas that will help you be a giver of hope?



*Christmas Gifts
that won't break ~
The Gift of Hope!*

Wednesday, December 1, 2010 ~ 7 PM

Gathering in God's Light

*Hymn ~ #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verses 1, 2)

Light One Advent Candle—the Candle of Hope

***We wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation
of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13)***

Powerful God of promises, you are able to do so much more than we can ever ask or even imagine. May your Spirit help us find, as we celebrate

the coming of your Son, renewed hope in your presence and your love. May your Spirit help us find renewed strength to share that hope with the world around us.

God's gift of hope in Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Alleluia! Amen!

Time with the Younger Church

Hymn ~ #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verses 3, 4)

Call to Worship

At Christmas time, we hope for lots of things..

I hope someone picks up on all those gift-giving hints I have been dropping!

I hope we'll have snow!

I hope I have time to do all the things I want to do!

I hope that I can take a few days off.

I hope that I can sleep in every morning between Christmas and New Years.

At Christmas time, we hope for lots of things..

I hope my family can get along at Christmas dinner.

I hope my family will get together for Christmas.

I hope Christmas will truly mean something this year.

I hope ...

Hymn of Invocation ~ #322 "Spirit of the Living God"

Reflecting on God's Light...

The Word of the Lord

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah (Matthew 1: 18-21)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was

found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Guided Meditation and Silent Reflection

Responding to God's Light in Song and Prayer

Hymn ~ #2092 "like a child"

Prayers of the People—prayers of hope

Benediction

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We will gather again next week to explore the next "Christmas gift that won't break—the gift of peace." See you at 7 pm!