

# Historic White Marsh Church

November 30, 2025 - First Sunday of Advent

Prelude Marjorie Lampkin - Pianist

**Hymn ~ 244      Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2–7 & Luke 1:8–25 Bob Sutherland

**Hymn ~ 245      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Prayer & Praise

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Kids Talk Sandi Sutherland

**Hymn ~ 285      O Holy Night!**

Sermon: "Hope – Waiting When God Seems Silent" Pastor Brad

**Hymn ~ 254      Isn't He?**

Benediction & Postlude

## **Visitors:**

**Welcome to our church!** Please fill out the visitor card at your pew, then give it to Pastor Brad or place it in the offering box.

**Sunday: Bible Explorers at 9:45 AM & Worship at 11:00 AM**

**Wednesday Bible Study: 6:00 PM**

## **Hope – Waiting When God Seems Silent**

### **The Art of Waiting, and Why We Aren't Always Good at It**

God does some of His greatest work in seasons of silence and waiting.

### **Waiting, a Common Theme in Isaiah and Luke**

God is always working, even when He appears to be silent.

### **God's Lessons in Hope**

- #1: Silence is not the same as no
- #2: Your delays may be preparing a larger story
- #3: Obedience in waiting
- #4: God's timing is always perfect
- #5: Hope lives in God's promises, not our emotions

### **What Are Some Practical Applications for our Advent Hope?**

- We are to keep praying—even when we don't feel heard.
- We are to keep serving because hope grows through faithfulness.
- We are to keep listening, as silence prepares the soul for greater things.
- We are to keep trusting God, as His delays are not denials.
- We are to keep looking ahead because the promised light is coming.

### **Our Hope Holds in the Silence**

- ~ If you feel in darkness, your hope says light is coming.
- ~ If you feel weary, your hope says God is near.
- ~ If you feel lost, your hope says Jesus is your way.
- ~ If you feel forgotten, your hope says God is faithful.
- ~ If you feel anxious, your hope says the Prince of Peace reigns.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the difference between "optimism" and biblical hope?
2. Why do you think God often begins His work in "dark" or difficult seasons?
3. How have you seen God's faithfulness in the past, and how does that strengthen your hope now?
4. What practical step can you take this week to make space for hope in your daily life?

**Announcements for November 30, 2025:**

**Pray for LCPS, NCPS, and our community Homeschoolers.** Join us at Historic White Marsh for prayer on Wednesday, **December 3, at 5 p.m.**

**Please plan to attend the “Christmas Means Love” Concert** featuring **The Conaway Family** and our very own **Alabaster Grace**, on **Saturday, December 6 at 4 p.m. at Church of Deliverance, 3734 Mary Ball Rd. in Lively.** We are collecting **Christmas socks and slippers** for seniors in assisted living. A reception will follow the concert.

**Board Meeting:** Tuesday, December 9 at 1 p.m.

**On Sunday, December 21**, the Torgerson children will present a special Christmas play during the worship service that they wrote. The service will also feature special Christmas music presented by members of our church family. Please see Joanie if you would like to share a special song!

**Friendship Fellowship** on Sunday, December 21, following the worship service.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** December 24 at 7 p.m.

**Tithes & Offerings:** Please use the wooden **offering box** or *mail your offering to: PO Box 24, Lancaster, VA 22503. Thank you!*

**Historic White Marsh Social Media:**

Facebook: @historicwhitemarshchurch

YouTube: Historic White Marsh Church

Alabaster Grace Ministries

Facebook: @alabastergraceministries

Website: [alabastergraceministries.org](http://alabastergraceministries.org)

YouTube: Alabaster Grace

Sundays with Alabaster Grace on 101.7 Bay FM: 9:15-9:30 AM