

## **ADVENT WEEK ONE**

**December 2, 2019**

### **Mountain and Branch of Hope**

*Genesis 8:1-19*

*...again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Genesis 8:10b-11*

Sometimes you may feel as if your life has been flooded with torrential rain. You are left out in the rain surrounded by the flood waters. No metaphorical ark to save you from the onslaught. You feel like you are drowning in grief, in stress, in busyness, in self-hatred.

Then you see a glimmer of hope as you feel the stability of Mt. Ararat—a day when somehow you feel stable—the water is receding.

Then you receive an olive leaf of hope: a kind word from a friend, an encouraging meme on social media, a compliment from a stranger, a sermon that speaks to your soul.

You know you will be OK. You may still be surrounded by the water (the anger, the grief, the stress) but you know in your bones that the waters are receding. You can't see dry land, but you know it's there.

Hope that change is coming. A shift has happened. You will live in hope again.

As we await the birth of Jesus, I pray that you will live in hope and that a change is coming for you.

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