

5. Read Jeremiah 32:1-9. How is buying the field a picture of investing in God's rule (i.e., his kingdom) as we wait for the new creation?

6. What are some of the ways Jesus fulfilled his work of doing what is just and right in the land in his earthly ministry?

7. While we wait for Christ's return, the new creation, and all things being made right, what are some of the seemingly worthless "fields" we can invest in (even while others invest in attractive short-term gains and goals)?

8. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and Romans 5:1-5. How does practicing hopeful waiting stir up and cultivate the virtue of hope in our lives?

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## SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

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### **Advent 2021**

"How to Cultivate Hope"  
Jeremiah 33:14-15; Matthew 1:1-6a

The pandemic's collateral damage is a loss of \_\_\_\_\_.

Christian hope is a confident \_\_\_\_\_.

Hope isn't peripheral to our faith; it's at the \_\_\_\_\_ of our faith.

"The times may be bad, but they are the only times we are given. Remember, hope is still a Christian virtue, and despair is a mortal sin." (Richard John Neuhaus)

1 Corinthians 13: <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ...<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

I don't think we get a \_\_\_\_\_ on being hopeful because we're in a pandemic or because the news makes us anxious or because we're suffering or even because we're experiencing grief.

Hope requires waiting, but we don't wait for hope. We practice \_\_\_\_\_ waiting.

### **How to Cultivate Hope this Advent Season**

1. Learn to \_\_\_\_\_.

Hope \_\_\_\_\_ waiting.

Jeremiah 33:14

A day of fulfillment is coming, but Jeremiah knows that \_\_\_\_\_ and dreadful days will come first. The Babylonians will conquer Jerusalem. Jeremiah and the people of God must wait for God to fulfill his promise.

A faith that won't wait is often confused or \_\_\_\_\_ about how what Jesus said and about content of the Bible story.

2. Wait \_\_\_\_\_.

"Don't wait for hope. Work for It. ...Hope is the means by which we align not simply our plans but also ourselves with God. It is how we move toward the future he is preparing for us in order to join him there." (Hannah Anderson)

To wait hopefully means you \_\_\_\_\_ your hope on a new horizon given by God, and you live with your heart set on that horizon. You align your life—your whole life—with God and God’s future.

Jeremiah 32:6-9,42-44

Look at God’s promises—what his plans are—and work toward that \_\_\_\_\_.

How do we work toward God’s future plans now?

- The Great Commission and Great \_\_\_\_\_
- Declare and \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel
- J \_\_\_\_\_ and Righteousness

Genesis 18:18-19

To do \_\_\_\_\_ means making sure people are treated equally and fairly and given an opportunity to flourish because they have dignity as God’s image bearers.

And to do \_\_\_\_\_ means living morally and ethically with others. It’s not just personal morality, it’s systemic (i.e., it’s reflected in laws and systems and codes of conduct), and it’s relational in the Bible.

Justice and righteousness are two sides of the same \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Samuel 8:15

1 Kings 10:9

Jeremiah 22:1-3

Jeremiah 33:15

Read the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus isn’t simply talking about getting saved. He’s talking about living life oriented by the kingdom of God, doing justice and righteousness.

Do the \_\_\_\_\_ Christ called us to do. Care about people. Treat people with dignity and stand in the gap when possible for people who are being mistreated. Care for the outcast and the poor and the powerless. Declare and demonstrate the gospel while you wait. And you don’t do this alone. We get to do this together.

Living this way cultivates and deepens hope.

## Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is one of the Christmas gifts you most hoped for in your childhood?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:6-13. Why do you think hope is a Christian virtue?
4. Jeremiah 33:14-15 and Matthew 1:1-6a. God’s people waited hundreds of years for Jeremiah’s prophecy to be fulfilled in Jesus. And we are now waiting for his return. How is a faith confused or deceived when it can’t wait or doesn’t even understand that we are still waiting?