

HOPE

Advent 1

Psalm 71:5

For you, O Lord,
are my hope, my trust,
O Lord, from my youth.

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in former
days was written for our instruction,
that through endurance and through
the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have hope.

The light of God is coming into the world,
into the brokenness and pain, sharing the joy and the tears,
pushing back the darkness.

We light the first light to declare that we believe in the
healing light of God.

Take this light, let it shine; call of God, love divine,
summons old Abram's line, hope for all the nations,
gift of God's salvation.

*Shine, O candles, shine, burn with love divine,
to the night, comes the light of the Father's glory*

God of the past, the present, and the future,
At this time of uncertainty and fear, we pray for your church,
We give thanks for two thousand years of witness to your
message of love,
We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not shown that
message as we should.
We pray for the church in today's world,
Facing challenges, but also faced with opportunities.
Give your people the wisdom to see the paths forward,
The courage to follow those paths,
And the love to sustain us in our journeying. Amen