

## This Present Hope Isaiah 54:1-4

Advent hope is one of the most powerful virtues for the believer. We are reminded of what it is to hope in the Messiah, which frees us to love others deeply.

Isaiah 54:1-4

1 Sing, O childless woman, you who have never given birth! Break into loud and joyful song, O Jerusalem, you who have never been in labor. For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband," says the Lord. 2 Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense! 3 For you will soon be bursting at the seams. Your descendants will occupy other nations and resettle the ruined cities. 4 Fear not; you will no longer live in shame. Don't be afraid; there is no more disgrace for you. You will no longer remember the shame of your youth and the sorrows of widowhood.

### The prophet's message

- Indictment
- Destruction
- Cursing
- Exile...
- ...and hope
- Sing barren woman
- The Messiah is coming
- Shalom in the land

### How'd it turn out?

- Destruction from the Babylonians
- Exile
- Brief return and rebuilding
- Unfulfilled hope

### The Anticipation

- Oppression
- Exile
- Abomination of desolation
- ...where is the Messiah

### Hope

- Is in the Messiah (Isaiah 53)
  - Advent and anticipation
    - “O Emmanuel” Malcolm Guite
      - O Come o come and be our God with us
      - O Come, our With-ness for a world without
      - O secret sea, O hidden spring of light
      - Come to us, Wisdom; Come, unspoken name
      - Come Root, and Key, and King and holy Flame
      - Oh quickened little Wick
      - So tightly curled
      - Be folded with us into time and place

Unfold for us the mystery of grace  
And make a womb of all this wounded world  
Oh heart of heaven beating in the earth  
Oh tiny hope within our hopelessness  
Come, to be born  
To bear us to our birth  
To touch a dying world with new made hands  
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.

- Is patient
  - Already/Not yet
- Frees us to love sacrificially