

First Sunday in Advent Hope



Written by the Rev. Kristine O'Brien
(Director of Crieff Hills)

L: The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find in the good news of the Gospel.

P: **Through the birth of a tiny and helpless child, God comes to save the world.**

L: While we watch and wait for Jesus, we join God's mission by bringing grace and mercy to those who need it most.

P: **We engage the poor and the poor in spirit, letting Christ's light shine through us.**

L: We speak words of comfort and love to a world in need of hope and healing as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

P: **Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.**

(The candle is lit)

L: Let us pray:

P: **God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life; and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption. Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. Amen.**



We Are Role Models

There is no question how important sexual reproductive health awareness is to help create healthy communities.

In Malawi, topics such as sexually transmitted diseases and other reproductive health questions are often considered taboo.

Thokozani, Peter and Mafuno are peer educators who are challenging the stigma surrounding reproductive health by teaching youth about family planning, preventing teenage pregnancy, HIV testing and accessing contraceptives.

Thokozani, Peter and Mafuno have begun see the impact of their work.

"The participants want to start engaging in better and healthier behaviour," Peter reports. "They are now getting tested and treated for sexually transmitted diseases."

The three educators also realize their roles are much bigger than just teaching, "we are role models to these people," Mafuno shares proudly.

This Advent season help us support community volunteers as they educate and empower young people on important health issues.

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