

## HOPE: OUR ADVENT VIRTUE -- DECEMBER PRAYER

**CALL TO PRAYER: LEADER** Let us center ourselves, relaxing in God's presence within us. St. Vincent reminds: "Let's be animated with perfect hope." Coste, VdP Conferences, X: 114 11/ 11/1659 p. 57

**INTRODUCTION: READER** Hope engenders confidence; it's a theological virtue by which we trust ... that God, in His goodness, will fulfill the promises He has made us. ... that God will take care of those who serve Him, as a husband takes care of his wife and a parent, a child. That's how -- and even more so -- God takes care of us. ... The reason obliging us to trust in God is that we know He's good, that He loves us very tenderly ... that He wants to give us whatever we need ...

adapted from Coste, Vincent de Paul Conferences, X: 97. TRUST IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE June 9, 1658 pages 403 – 04

**ANTIPHON: "MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS"** Marty Haugen REFRAIN (SING OR RECITE, PLEASE.)

For You, O Lord, my soul in still - ness  
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphons; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1198 © A Publications, Inc. Used with permission, license #5393

**"O" ANTIPHONS:** (ALTERNATE SIDES, PLEASE.)

1. O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,  
your radiance shines in all who look to you.  
Come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.
2. O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits.  
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word.  
Come, make us whole; be comfort to our hearts.
1. O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,  
and in your advent draw us all to you,  
our hope reborn in dying and in rising.
2. O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,  
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain.  
Open to us the pathway of your peace.
1. Come, let us bow before the God who made us.  
Let every heart be opened to the Lord,  
for we are all the people of his hand.
2. Here we shall meet the makers of the heavens,  
creator of the mountains and the seas,  
Lord of the stars and present to us now.



**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning so now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

**ANTIPHON: "MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS" REFRAIN** (SING OR RECITE, PLEASE.)

**READINGS:** Romans 5: 2-5 *Through [Christ] we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces hope and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

**Romans 8: 24-25** *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

**RESPONSE:**

**LEADER** God is my all; God is my Creator and all my hope.

**ALL** God is my all; God is my Creator and all my hope.

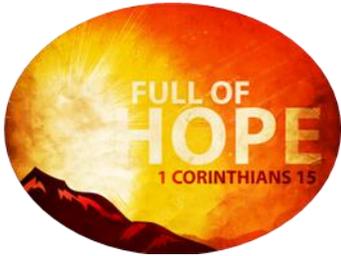
**LEADER** God is my all;

**ALL** God is my Creator and all my hope.

**LEADER** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

**ALL** God is my all; God is my Creator and all my hope.

Coste, Vincent de Paul Conferences, X: 73. INDIFFERENCE June 6, 1656 page 141



**REFLECTION AND SHARING:** (PAUSE FOR TIME TO PROCESS, REFLECT. THEN SHARE IN PAIRS, PLEASE.)

**In my life now, how is God inviting me to hope?**

**How do I share my hope with those I serve, at home, as a Lady of Charity?**

**INTERCESSIONS:**

**LEADER** For all the hurting people in our world who need hope,

**ALL** O God, hear our prayer.

**LEADER** For our political, civic and church leaders that they may encourage hope,

**ALL** O God, hear our prayer.

**LEADER** For each of us, our loved ones and those who are called to serve in hope,

**ALL** O God, hear our prayer.

(PLEASE, ADD YOUR OWN PRAYERS. ALL RESPOND: O God, hear our prayer.)

**PRAYER:** **ALL** Blessed be you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to your great mercy, you have caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Now, God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. Amen.

(based on 1 Peter 1: 3 Romans 15: 13 English Standard Version)



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**PRAYER TEXTS** Psalm 147: 11 "... put ... hope in [God's] unfailing love." New International Version

Jeremiah 29: 11 "... give ... a future full of hope." New American Bible