

## **ADVENT – Moment for Mission**

**By Larry Colvin**

The season of Advent comes to us as the ground lays barren and the days grow colder. The bleak gray skies blot the sun and night draws its shades all too quickly. Every day events envelop the world in despair. Surrounding us are hate, fear, famine, COVID, and shortages. Doom and gloom.

Jeremiah is often called the prophet of doom and gloom. How fitting it may seem during this time to be weighed down by such a message. But wait –

Listen carefully to the message of God's good news the prophet offers us in our time of distress. "I have a plan to give you a future of hope." (Jer. 29:11) "'The Days are surely coming,' says the Lord, 'when I will fulfill the promise...'" (Jer. 33:14) What is this hope? What is this promise? Justice and righteousness shall rule.

Against all odds, Advent calls us to celebrate hope. God spoke words of hope through Jeremiah and calls us into a mission of hope in bringing justice and righteousness to our community, our nation, and our world. What plan do you have for giving a future of hope? Now is the time to lay before God not only your gifts from your financial treasury, but you may offer your hands to build homes of hope for the homeless. You may offer your time to the child who seeks a friend. You may offer your heart to the strangers and cast-offs in your midst. You may offer your strong shouts of justice for those who have no voice. You may offer your meekness as a sign of righteous power. What will you offer?

Take a moment this morning to write your offering on the paper provided you and place it together with your financial gift and your prayer of hope.