

First Sunday in Advent

Hope

L: We are waiting, O God!
In all times and all places we are looking for a sign
that your redemption is drawing near.

P: Christ is coming soon.

L: We are keeping vigil on earth, knowing you will fulfill your promise to bring justice, righteousness and peace.

P: Christ is coming soon.

L: We are open to newness, and we are listening and ready to respond, willing to repent, to change, to be healed and transformed.

P: Christ is coming soon.

L: As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we put our trust in God. We look to Jesus for encouragement to remain steadfast in faith. And we seek the blessing of the Holy Spirit that the hope in our hearts will move us to live out your calling.

P: Christ is the hope of the world!

L: We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope. Let us pray.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come! In you we place our trust. Make known your ways to us so that we may proclaim your good news and be good news to others. Amen.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

From Setback to State Rank: Dipmala's Story



As a teenager, Dipmala Kumari from Bihar, India, was forced to put her dreams on hold. Although she wanted to continue studying, her family could not afford further education and social expectations were pushing her to get married.

Her future felt uncertain until the Karuna Project, supported by PWS&D, recognized her potential and encouraged her to return to school.

With project support, Dipmala enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts program, received coaching for competitive exams and completed computer training. When Bihar Police recruitment opened, Karuna helped her apply and prepare. Through determination and hard work, she achieved the 14th highest rank in the state.

Now 20-years-old, Dipmala is in police training and will soon serve as Security In-Charge during local elections, guarding elected leaders.

Her parents are proud, saying Karuna made her success possible. Her father calls her "a treasure" who now supports the family.

Dipmala is also committed to giving back. Inspired by the support she received, she plans to help support the education of two girls.

This Advent season, respond with PWS&D to ensure communities understand the importance of educating girls.

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