

Advent Devotional - Day 23

2025

December 23rd



Scripture: Romans 15:13 Verse: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Reflection:

This verse wants to stop us in our tracks and remember that hope is not a half-hearted wish but a gift from God. In Penn Hills that looks like folks who keep going even when paychecks are tight, neighbors who show up with casseroles after a loss, and young people who keep trying even when doors close. When we trust God, joy and peace aren't naive feelings but steady companions that help us face what comes.

The idea of "overflowing with hope" feels practical here: hope that spills into action. That might mean a volunteer stepping into a mentoring role at a local school, a church pantry that keeps its doors open through hard months, or neighbors refusing to give up on someone caught in addiction. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to keep showing up, to turn our small acts of faith into something that changes lives around us.

For Mt. Hope this season, let hope shape how you show up. Make your worship hopeful and honest, let your outreach be steady rather than dramatic, and choose projects that build long-term trust in the neighborhood. If we let the Spirit fill us, our joy and peace won't stay private; they'll ripple outward and become the kind of hope our town needs.

Prayer:

God, fill us with your joy and peace as we learn to trust you. Pour your Spirit into our hearts so that hope rises in us and spills into our streets. Help us carry that hope into our neighbors' lives with steady hands and gentle words, so Penn Hills may see your love in small, true acts. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

As this year comes to a close, take some time to consider and choose one steady commitment that you can lead or assist with at Mt Hope for the entire next year: a weekly visit, a phone check-in with shut ins, a social media ambassador, a new voice in the choir, or some other act of service for our community.



12106 Frankstown Road
Penn Hills, PA 15235

412-793-0227

mthope@mthopepcusa.org