

CHRISTMAS COMES TO BETHANY: John 11:17-27

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. In what ways can Christians support one another, both practically and spiritually, when we experience loss?
3. How can we know when our grief is healthy and appropriate, unlike that of an unbeliever (1 Thess. 4:13)?
4. Is disappointment in God ever appropriate for a believer? Why or why not?
5. In verse 22, with her brother in a tomb for four days, Martha says that "even now" she knows that Jesus can ask anything of God, and it will come to pass. Have you ever reached out to God in a seemingly hopeless situation? What happened?
6. What is significant about the fact that our hope is in a person, Jesus (verses 24 and 25)?
7. How would it impact our faith if Jesus had not been our resurrection? See Paul's words on this in 1 Cor. 15:12-20.
8. What is required for us to experience Jesus as both our resurrection and our life?
9. This second week of advent celebrates hope. What tradition do you have (or could you begin) that incorporates hope this Christmas season?