

Christmas trees as a symbol of hope

*“...we have put our hope in the living God,
who is the Savior of all people...” (1 Timothy 4:10)*



The winter solstice—when in the northern hemisphere the day is shortest and the night longest—has been celebrated for thousands of years. Ancient Egyptians filled their homes with palm fronds that symbolized the sun god’s victory over death. Celtic druids and ancient Romans decorated their temples and homes with evergreen boughs to represent the hope of everlasting life. And Vikings used pine trees and wreaths to protect their homes from evil. By the 16th century CE, devout German Christians were drawing on these symbols of life and hope in the depths of winter, by putting up evergreen trees in their homes to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Take time this week to touch and smell some Christmas greenery, and remember that God is the source of all life. Identify any situations or relationships that seem trapped in the dead of winter. Talk to God about your need for hope and new life.

Be an agent of hope

Send an encouraging card, email, or text to someone who is going through a hard time right now. Let them know they are not alone.