

Hope Born in the “in-Between”

Texts: Isaiah 9:2 and John 1:14

First Advent Reflection 2025

At borders, language shifts with the wind and the aromas of two worlds blend in the air. There, I learned that hope also crosses without documents. Isaiah wrote, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2) That light did not stop at invisible lines; it moved freely, illuminating faces marked by fatigue, uncertainty, and longing.

The Apostle John says, “And the Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). These words remind me that God Himself chose to dwell at the border between the divine and the human.

It was there, in that “in-between,” that hope was born in its deepest form. Jesus! The incarnation is the testimony of a God who does not fear our limits, and is not limited by our fears, but dwells in them and transforms them into bridges of hope.

Growing up on the U.S./Mexico border has taught me that hope comes in unexpected ways: in the mestizo air between worlds, and in the whisper of the “not yet,” and cries of “Dios mio” expressing the intersection of joy and heartbreak. In every mother waiting for news, in every person crossing in search of a better life, in every heart that still believes, hope is incarnated anew.

This Advent, I invite you to look at the border, yours, mine, ours... not as division, but as sacred ground where God continues to be born. For at every boundary where life and hope seem to end, Jesus begins them again.



Rev. Lori Tapia is the National Pastor and president of the Hispanic Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Her election as the first woman in this role marks a milestone in the church's history, symbolizing barrier-breaking leadership. With an authentic voice and writing that touches the soul, Lori stands out as a spiritual leader whose passion lies in empowerment through faith and identity, and in discipleship rooted in genuine relationships that strengthen the community of believers.

Learn more → aeth.org | [f](#) [@](#) [X](#) [▶](#) [aeth_org](#)



ADVENT 2025
“One Nativity,
Many
Perspectives”



#WeareAETH