

First Sunday of Advent *Hope*

One: Faith, hope and love,

People: **By these three gifts we live.**

One: Given by God, received in the Spirit, learned from Christ.

People: **Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, whose faith, hope and love carry them through good times and bad, we gather at Advent in a festival of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of God in Jesus Christ, until he comes again.**

One: Be it New Hope Presbytery or Better Hope, Guyana

People: **We are part of a global community of faith, whose hope is grounded in the unfailing love of God, come to live among us: Emmanuel.**

One: We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope.

All: **Let all who are discouraged take heart in this light. It is both in suffering and in celebration that we hope. Let us not close ourselves to hope when it seems naive, or is too painful. And let us refuse to call any place or time or person hopeless.**

For this is the light of Emmanuel, the candle of hope.

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Second Sunday of Advent *Peace*

One: Clear a path!

People: **Make a way!**

One: For the Lord is coming!

People: **The Prince of Peace!**

One: The Servant whose gift is Shalom!

People: **How we need his peace! Within ourselves and throughout our world.**

All: **Peace not as the world gives, but as Jesus gives; not as armament but as Spirit song; with justice and peace holding hands, healing wounds, forming community, and restoring the creation and all of its life forms to joy and flourishing.**

One: We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of peace.

All: **Let all who long for peace take heart in this light. By its light let us recognize the things that make for peace, and reject the things that service revenge. By its light let us walk with each other, in all of our diversity and difference, as we work together to prepare a path for the coming of the Lord.**

This is the light of Emmanuel, the candle of peace.

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Third Sunday of Advent

Joy

One: Sing and shout for joy!

People: Rejoice with all your heart!

One: For the Lord is with you,

People: Now there is no reason to be afraid.

One: From joy, for joy, the Lord calls us and gathers us to himself.

People: From the four directions we come, celebrating the coming of our Savior, daring to dance and delight in his name. We celebrate him, and recognize him, in the breaking of bread and the making of community.

One: We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of joy.

All: Let all who mistrust joy take heart in this light. Our joy is a deep river on a long journey, within us and through us. It flows from Christ, who knows both joy and pain. In our joy we do not forget our sorrow, nor in our sorrow do we forget our joy.

This is the light of Emmanuel, the candle of joy.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love

One: God above us,

People: God beside us,

One: God within us,

People: Creator, Son and Spirit. Trinity of love.

One: You come to us in the Christ child, Mary's babe, born of the Spirit.

People: Born to love us back to you, in passion and compassion: restoring our lives, binding up our broken hearts and communities, setting us free to love and be loved into a new humanity in your name.

One: We light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of love.

People: Let those who have given up on love take heart in this light. It shines for all who know the pain of loving, of refusing to love or of being unable to love. It shines to open us to the love of God come among us in Christ.

This is the light of Emmanuel, the candle of love.

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Christmas The Christ Candle

One: The people who walked in darkness

People: have seen a great light!

One: Those who once lived in shadows

People: now rejoice at what the Lord has done!

One: For to us a child is born! A Savior is given!

People: He will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!' He will bring justice for the poor, and defend the rights of the helpless.

He will nourish righteousness and embody love. He will bring peace: for lions and lambs. hawks and doves, people and peoples.

One: We light the Christ candle.

All: Let all who yearn for new beginnings take heart in this light. When God comes as a child we open ourselves to wonder, to love and to hope.

His light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Let the joy of Christmas fill our hearts.

This is the light of Emmanuel, the Christ candle.

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