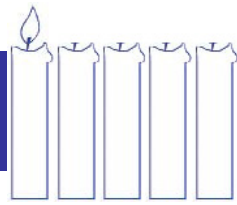


First Sunday of Advent



Hope

Reader 1: We are waiting, O God!
In all times and all places we are looking for
a sign that your redemption is drawing near.

All: Behold, I am coming soon.

Reader 2: We are keeping vigil on earth, knowing you will fulfill
your promise to bring justice, righteousness and peace.

All: Behold, I am coming soon.

Reader 3: We are open to the new, listening and ready to
respond, willing to repent, to change, to be healed and
transformed.

All: Behold, I am coming soon.

Reader 1: As we stand on the threshold of a new church year,
we put our trust in God.

Reader 2: We look to Jesus for the encouragement we need to
remain steadfast in faith.

Reader 3: We pray for the blessings of the Holy Spirit that the
hope in our hearts may motivate us to live out our calling.

All: Christ is the hope of the world!

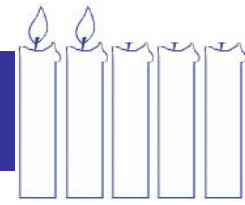
Reader 1: We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of hope.
Let us pray.

Unison Prayer:

**Come Lord Jesus, come! In you we place our trust.
Make known your ways to us that we may proclaim your
good news and be good news to others. Amen.**

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Second Sunday of Advent



Peace

Reader 1: A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

All: Let us listen.

Reader 2: We listen for God's message, in the witness of the prophets,
in the faithfulness of John the Baptist, and ultimately in our Lord Jesus
Christ, through his birth, life, death and resurrection.

All: Let us hear.

Reader 3: We listen for the message of our day, but cannot always
hear. We are deaf to God because we can become preoccupied with
ourselves and our busyness leads to unexamined lives. Sometimes we
miss the message because it is too familiar and we have grown
complacent.

All: Help us act.

Reader 1: Who is crying in the wilderness today? Orphans, widows,
victims of war and torture, the displaced, the poor, the lonely and sick,
the rejected and the despised.

Reader 2: Let us be open to the refiner's fire that we may become pure
of heart and bear the message of God's love through word and action.

All: Then everyone will see the saving power of God!

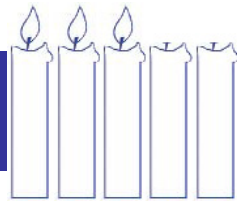
Reader 3: We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace.
Let us pray.

Unison Prayer:

**Come Lord Jesus, come! Help us "turn around" and be changed
in our awareness, action, and attitude. Remind us how beautiful
are the feet of those who announce peace and bring good news.
Amen.**

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Third Sunday of Advent



Joy

Reader 1: Always be glad because of the Lord!
I will say it again: Be glad.

**All: Always be gentle with others.
The Lord will soon be here.**

Reader 2: Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts, offer up your prayers and requests to God.

All: Trust in God gives us hope, peace, resilience and joy.

Reader 3: In the face of difficulties, struggles or trials, trust in God gives us staying power and perseverance.

Reader 1: We are taught to have courage and not be dismayed. God is always with us, and promises to refresh our lives with love.

Reader 2: God's Spirit makes us loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled.

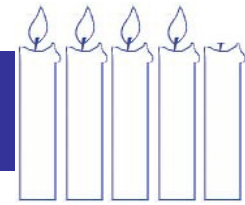
All: Let us discover our life in Christ and rejoice!

Reader 3: We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy. Let us pray.

Unison Prayer:
Come Lord Jesus, come!
You make our joy complete.
In all the changing circumstances of life,
you bless us again and again.
We praise you and rejoice.
May all the ends of the earth see the salvation of God.
Amen.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent



Love

Reader 1: The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah.

All: The labor is beginning.

Reader 2: Mary has shared her joys and struggles with Elizabeth. They have supported one another in their faith journeys.

All: All the earth is waiting.

Reader 3: Elizabeth blesses Mary and the One who is "the fruit of her womb."

All: The wonder of love is being revealed.

Reader 1: Mary is full of gratitude and responds with thanksgiving. Her song reaches back into the past, proclaims God's mercy in the present and promises that all future generations will be blessed.

All: Glory to God in the highest.

Reader 2: Jesus' birth turns the world upside down in order to make it right side up with God's love. He reaches out to the hungry and poor, to the lowly and outcast, to the person of influence and the ordinary. He invites us to share love wherever we abide.

All: Here I am Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

Reader 3: We light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. Let us pray.

Unison Prayer:
Come Lord Jesus, come! We can hardly wait any longer.
Prepare us, O God, to welcome Emmanuel into our hearts, that we may be a people full of love. Amen.

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Christmas



Reader 1: Our Savior is born a baby!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader 2: Jesus Christ became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.

All: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

Reader 3: Jesus is both a mirror to humanity and a window to divinity.

All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Reader 1: Christmas reminds us that God is with us, here and now.

Reader 2: Infant Jesus calls out the best in us.

Reader 3: What is our response to the Beloved?

All: We will give him our hearts.

Reader 1: We light the Christ Candle. Let us pray.

Unison Prayer:

O Gracious God, Creator of the Shining Stars, we wish to travel with haste to Bethlehem and greet Jesus. We desire to take in all that you have made known to us in his wondrous birth. Bless us with your grace as we reach out and welcome Christ Jesus into our lives. Amen.

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