

# The First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Voice 1: Today we light the first candle in Advent, the candle of hope.

*(Light candle)*

Voice 2: May the light from this candle kindle anew the hope for the world Isaiah proclaimed.

Voice 1: Hope for the time when God's call for justice is complete. When all of us will go up to the mountain of the Lord's house together.

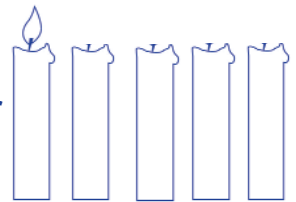
Voice 2: When modern swords like nuclear weapons, cluster bombs, and policies that put profit before people will be made into ploughshares.

Voice 1: We journey in hope for the time when everyone will have enough. We journey in hope for the time when peace will reign.

Voice 2: May the light of this Advent candle be a sign of the hope we claim as we wait for the babe to be born.

**Unison Prayer:**

**Grant us the vision of our swords being smashed into ploughshares, O God. Renew our hope for the time when war will end and there will be enough for all your children. Amen.**



Liturgy composed by The Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper  
Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development



## Hope for Afghanistan



# The Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Voice 1: Today we light the second candle in Advent, the candle of peace.

*(Light candle)*

Voice 2: May the light from this candle shatter the violence that stalks our world.

Voice 1: The Promised One points us to the way to build peace.

Voice 2: To work for a world where everyone has enough.  
To walk with the lonely, the despised and the forgotten.

Voice 1: God's peace will change the way we expect things to be;  
the wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard with the goat.

Voice 2: We will share sacrificially with the poor.  
We will lift up the forgotten.

Voice 1: And a little child will lead them... the child whose birth we await.

## Unison Prayer:

**Lord, we know the darkness of violence in our communities and in our world. Teach us the ways to be peacemakers in our lives and to embrace the unexpected. Amen.**



Liturgy composed by The Reverend Kate Ballagh-Steeper  
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Photo: Paul Jeffrey



## The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Voice 1: Today we light the third candle in Advent, the candle of joy.

*(Light candle)*

Voice 2: May the light from this candle let joy seep through the parched places of our lives and our world.

Voice 1: The prophet proclaims the time when streams will run in the desert, when the eyes of the blind will be opened and the deaf shall hear.

Voice 2: What joy there will be in refugee camps, soup kitchens and medical outposts when needs are met with generosity and compassion.

Voice 1: What joy when the voices of the poor and forgotten are heard.

Voice 2: Our joy will be complete when we hear and respond to the needs of all God's children.

### Unison Prayer:

**As we prepare for your birth into the world, O God, may your joy fill our empty, dry places of spirit. As the river flows in the desert bringing life, show us how generously sharing our time, talents and treasures with the world is the way to invite your joy into our lives. Amen.**



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From a desperate struggle to survive life in refugee camp, to a new home in Canada.

*The journey to a new life begins.*



# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Voice 1: Today we light the fourth candle in Advent, the candle of love.

*(Light candle)*

Voice 2: May the light of this candle be a sign of God's burning love for humanity.

Voice 1: We ask for signs of God's love, but we are impatient in waiting for it to appear.

Voice 2: We have looked for God's love in the lights and tinsel of Christmas.

Voice 1: But God is born among us when we reach out to others in love, offering friendship, hope, peace and joy to all whom we encounter.

Voice 2: For God's love is poured out in the birth of Immanuel - "God with us."

**Unison Prayer:**

**Immanuel, may our hearts be open to the love you birthed into the world. May we so reflect your love that others come to know the depth of your love for them and for the world. Amen.**



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# The Christ Candle

## Christmas

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

Voice 1: The time has come! The circle is complete!  
Now we light the Christ Candle!

*(Light candle)*

Voice 2: May the flame of the Christ candle burn  
long after Christmas is packed away for  
another year.

Voice 1: Christ is born! The light of this holy birth has  
shattered the power of darkness forever.

Voice 2: The darkness of hunger and thirst is relinquished  
by generous acts of sharing by God's people.

Voice 1: The darkness of loneliness, despair and hopelessness is  
extinguished by the love of so many who reach out with  
compassion and caring.

Voice 2: The darkness of violence dissipates with each heart that  
forgives, with each one who works for peace and justice,  
and with each person who hopes in the promises of God.

### Unison Prayer:

**Prince of Peace, for this world you were born.  
For each one gathered in this place you were  
born. Be born again in our hearts so that we  
may reflect the hope, peace, joy and love that  
were wrapped around you in the manger in  
Bethlehem! Amen.**



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Service & Development



## Faithful to Our Calling

