



**The candles at Advent as Christmas draws near; their strong and unfaltering flames we hold dear. And each has a message God's promise reminds, in sending our Saviour, whose life to us binds.**

*Adapted advent worship materials of the Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

### **First Sunday in Advent: Hope (28/11/2021)**

The first of the candles brings Hope with its light, through times of despair or whatever our plight. When reaching to touch its most delicate ray, the faithful and trusting through him find the way. Light of darkness, Hope is to come, for God will send his Son. Hope everlasting when he shall come down, the long awaited One.

***We light this candle in hope. Light the first candle. Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4:***

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

#### **Let us pray:**

Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.



## **Second Sunday in Advent: Peace (5/12/2021)**

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope (light the first candle).

We light this candle for peace (light the second candle).

Now, Peace is the candle, its elusive flame, some search for relentlessly; striving in vain. In quiet reflection, considering God's grace, then those ever thankful shall surely find Peace. Light of darkness, Peace is to come, for God will send his Son. Peace everlasting when he shall come down, the long awaited One.

### ***Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:1-10:***

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

### **Let us pray:**

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.



### **Third Sunday in Advent: Joy (12/12/2021)**

The light from this candle, emitting great Joy, bring thoughts of our Saviour who comes as a boy. So let us be joyful, while singing his praise, and welcome his coming then follow his way. Light of

darkness, Joy is to come, for God will send his Son. Joy everlasting when he shall come down, the long awaited One.

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light this candle in hope (light the first candle).

We light this candle for peace (light the second candle).

We light this candle in joy (light the third candle) remembering the promises of God with prayer.

***Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home, as we hear in Isaiah 35:1-10:***

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

**Let us pray.**

O Lord, our redeemer, you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration. Thank you that you are coming for us to lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ. Amen.



## **Fourth Sunday in Advent: Love (19/12/2021)**

The Love that this candle tells of shall endure; is always forgiving, and caring and sure. Our Lord is to come and he comes us to lead: to teach us to love in our word and our deed. Light of darkness, Love is to come, for God will send his Son. Love everlasting when he shall come down, the long awaited One.

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light this candle in hope (light the first candle).

We light this candle for peace (light the second candle).

We light this candle in joy (light the third candle).

We light this candle with love (light the fourth candle).

### ***Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14:***

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

### **Let us pray.**

God of hope, Prince of peace, Jubilee Judge, and Lord of love, your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.



## **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day**

The light that is Christ shall endure for all days and those who go near share its brilliant rays: a life of compassion, obedience and love was sent by his Father from heaven above.

Light of darkness, waiting is done, or God has sent his Son. Promise fulfilled and all praise be to God for now the time has come!

We have watched;

We have waited in hope (light the first candle)

For peace (light the second candle)

In joy (light the third candle)

With love (light the fourth candle).

Now our redemption draws near!

The Christ candle (the centre candle) is lit.

### ***Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7***

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!