

## Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

### Week One: Hope

**Reader One:** Today we recognize the 800 million people struggling with starvation and severe hunger ...

**Reader Two:** Today we choose to see the vast chasm between 1% of the world holding half of the world's wealth and the 90% with only 15%. We choose to see the injustice of those who had no choice being born into poverty ...

**Reader One:** In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope ...

**Reader Two:** In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, in the face of poverty, we light a candle of hope ... (*Light the first candle in your Advent wreath.*)

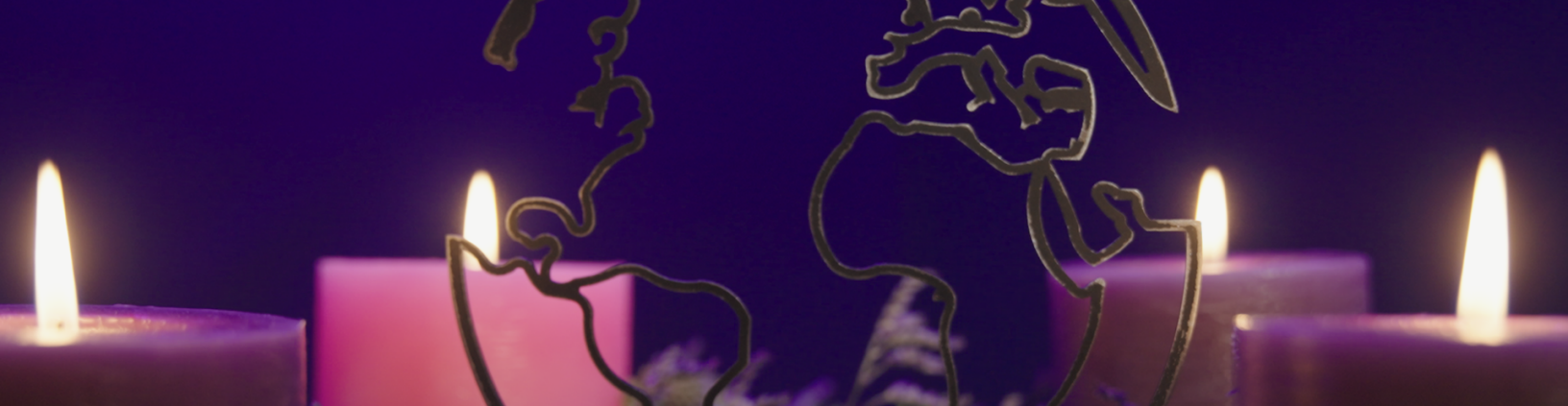
**Reader One:** As those being sent by Jesus, may our light overwhelm the world.

**Reader Two:** As those being sent by Jesus, may our light say to all—God's hope is coming on earth as it is in heaven.

**Reader One:** *Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 10:23-24, NIV

A photograph of several lit purple candles in the foreground, with a wireframe map of the world in the background, all set against a dark background.

## Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

### Week Two: Faith

**Reader One:** *Jesus saw the crowds and had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.<sup>2</sup>*

**Reader Two:** Jesus spoke to people who were desperate and said, “Your faith has made you well.”<sup>3</sup>

**Reader One:** In the face of desperation and helplessness, we light a candle of faith ...

**Reader Two:** In the face of unbelief and doubt, we light a candle of faith. (*Light the first and second candles in your Advent wreath.*)

**Reader One:** As those being sent by Jesus, may the light from our faith overwhelm the world.

**Reader Two:** As those being sent by Jesus, may the light from our faith declare with certainty—faith is coming on earth as it is in heaven.


**Reader One:** *Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 9:36, NIV

<sup>3</sup> Luke 17:19, NIV

<sup>4</sup> 1 John 5:4-5, NIV



## Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

### Week Three: Joy

**Reader One:** *The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.*

*Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.<sup>5</sup>*

**Reader Two:** *Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.*

*Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.<sup>6</sup>*

**Reader One:** In the face of the desert and parched land, we light a candle of joy...

**Reader Two:** In the face of physical and spiritual blindness, deafness and paralysis, we light a candle of joy... (Light the first, second and third candles in your Advent wreath.)

**Reader One:** As those being sent by Jesus, may the light of our joy overwhelm the world.

**Reader Two:** As those being sent by Jesus, may the light of our joy say to all—God's joy is coming, on earth as it is in heaven.


**Reader One:** *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.<sup>7</sup>*

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<sup>5</sup> Isaiah, 35:1-2, NIV

<sup>6</sup> Isaiah, 35:5-6, NIV

<sup>7</sup> Romans 15:13, NIV



## Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

### Week Four: Peace

**Reader One:** *You will keep in perfect peace  
those whose minds are steadfast,  
because they trust in you.<sup>8</sup>*

**Reader Two:** *The Lord's justice will dwell in the desert,  
his righteousness live in the fertile field.  
The fruit of that righteousness will be peace;  
its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.<sup>9</sup>*

**Reader One:** In the face of war, rumors of wars, and nations rising against nations, we light a candle of peace.

**Reader Two:** In the face of fear, uncertainty, trouble and hardship, we light a candle of peace. (Light the first, second, third and fourth candles in your Advent wreath.)

**Reader One:** As those being sent by Jesus, may the light of our peace overwhelm the world.

**Reader Two:** As those being sent by Jesus, may the light of our peace say to all—God's peace is coming, on earth as it is in heaven.


**Reader One:** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.<sup>10</sup>*

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<sup>8</sup> Isaiah 26:3, NIV

<sup>9</sup> Isaiah 32:16-17, NIV

<sup>10</sup> Philippians 4:6-7, NIV



**Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy**  
**Christmas Day or Christmas Eve**

**Reader One:** *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*<sup>11</sup>

**Reader Two:** *Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*<sup>12</sup>

**Reader One:** As the Father was motivated by His love for the world, we embrace the presence of the Holy Spirit where God's love is poured into our hearts.

**Reader Two:** As Jesus came from the Father to give His life for the world, we in turn give our lives to do His will. (Light all four Advent candles and finally the Christ candle)

**Reader One:** As those being sent by Jesus, may the light of God's love be shown through us to the world He died to save.

**Reader Two:** As those being sent by Jesus, may our love overflow to say to all—God's kingdom is coming and His will is being done on earth as it is in heaven.

**Reader One:** *May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> John 3:16, NIV

<sup>12</sup> John 20:21-22, NIV

<sup>13</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV