

# Advent



Candle Lighting Liturgy

## First Sunday in Advent

Reader: Jesus is coming, as God's hope for us.

**All: The promise of God is sure: 'A righteous Branch will spring up ... and he shall exercise justice and righteousness in the land.'**

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus to us in astonishing meekness, and await his coming again in awesome majesty.

**All: Until that day, we live as Jesus' disciples, witnessing to God's faithfulness and salvation in a world that is both stressed and distressed.**

Reader: As the candle of hope is lit, welcome Jesus as God's hope for the world's healing, when all sorrow and sin, hunger and pain, tears and death, will pass away.

**All: We wait for that day and work toward it, with words of hope and deeds of love, in the power of Jesus.**

*The candle of hope is lit.*

***Unison Prayer:* Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world, we celebrate your coming to us in the fragility of flesh and blood, and anticipate your coming again for the healing of the nations. Help us share the promises of hope with those facing despair, enduring injustice, and those struggling to find direction. Amen.**

## Second Sunday in Advent

Reader: Jesus is coming, as God's peace for us.

**All: The promise of God is sure: 'By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.'**

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus to bring peace, and we wait for the day when the hostilities that haunt and hurt our world have ceased.

**All: Until that day, we follow the Prince of peace, practicing the peace and forgiveness Jesus brings, in our family, community, and fragmented world.**

Reader: As the candle of peace is lit, embrace Jesus as God's peacemaker, the One who redeems us from hatred and violence, and who will reign one day over a reconciled world.

**All: We long for that day and work toward peace, in the power of Jesus.**

*The candle of peace is lit.*

**Unison Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, our peacemaker, as we celebrate your willingness to step into our tense and troubled world, help us to be instruments of your peace, bringing love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury, and hope where there is despair. Amen.**

## Third Sunday in Advent

Reader: Jesus is coming, as God's joy for us.

**All: The promise of God is sure: 'Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart... The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.'**

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus as God's joy among us. A day is coming when God will gather all; even the oppressed and the outcast will come home, and we shall rejoice.

**All: Until that day, we serve an aching world in the power of the Spirit, exchanging fear for gladness, and worry for prayer.**

Reader: As the candle of joy is lit, set anxiety aside, rejoice in the Lord, pray with thanks, and make every need known to God.

**All: We pray for the day when God's salvation is fully come and the whole world rejoices.**

*The candle of joy is lit.*

**Unison Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, your joy we already know and celebrate. But we long for our weary world to know the joy of a new beginning. Help us to share your joy with all who are hungry or weighed down by sorrow, both those we meet every day, and those around the globe we will never meet. Amen.**

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

Reader: Jesus is coming, as God's love for us.

**All: The promise of God is sure: 'But you, O Bethlehem... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule... and he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord.'**

Reader: In this season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of Jesus as God's gift: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

**All: Until the day when the world is filled with God's promised eternal life, we receive and rejoice in the sacrificial love with which Jesus loves us.**

Reader: As the candle of love is lit, take the love of God, revealed in Bethlehem's child, and use it to help transform the world.

**All: We pledge ourselves as God's loved partners to love the world God loves, not counting the cost.**

*The candle of love is lit.*

*Unison Prayer:* **Lord Jesus Christ, as we celebrate how you reveal God's love, make us mindful of the loveless lives we often overlook but which have immense value to you. Open our hearts and hands to love the loveless, lift up the forgotten, and restore the lost. Amen.**

# Christmas Eve/Day

*Reader:* The promises of God's prophets; the prayers of God's people; the yearning of the years: all meet in Bethlehem.

**All: 'For a child has been born for us, a son given to us... and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'**

*Reader:* His name is Jesus, and we worship him! The hope, peace, joy, and love — which is the glory of God — God brings to us in Jesus. Life can never be the same again.

**All: With prophets and the wise, angels and shepherds, Mary and Joseph, ordinary and extraordinary people, we celebrate the mystery of God-with-us, Emmanuel.**

*Reader:* As the Christ candle is lit, may our adoration rise to God like a flame, warming our hearts, and blessing the world.

**All: We give ourselves wholeheartedly to Jesus Christ, singing his praises, even as we serve the needy world he loves.**

*The Christ candle is lit.*

*Unison Prayer:* **Awesome God, in Jesus, time and eternity touched, heaven and earth joined. This Christmas, claim us and change us, so that we not only worship you, but work for you, until your will is done on earth just as it is in heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
goodwill toward men!"*



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