

## Candle Lighting Year C

(This liturgy is based on a reflection of the past, present, and future believers)

### First Sunday

#### The Prophets' Candle

Reader #1: The prophets spoke long ago to the people of Israel, proclaiming God's justice and promise to their time. In these days of Advent, we reflect back on the words of the prophets, and speak justice, promise, and hope into our time.

Reader #2: We light this candle for the prophets that have gone before us, and for the prophetic voices in our time, that the words of God's justice and promise may be carried on.

*(light the first purple candle)*

Prayer: God of the prophets, help us to speak your prophetic word to this world.

In this time of Advent, help us to prepare for Christ's coming into our lives in a new way. Amen.

### Second Sunday

#### The Children's Candle

Reader #1: The hopes and dreams of old were placed upon the shoulders of the children to come. The promises of God to Abraham and Sarah were fulfilled through the birth of their son Isaac. In the years of wandering and exile, faith kept their people alive, a faith taught to their children. In these days of Advent, we reflect on the promises we make to the children of our community and the ways we live in God's peace.

Reader #2: We light this candle for the children that have carried on the faith in years past, and for the children of today, who are part of our church now and the future, who live out the faith and walk the ways of the Prince of Peace.

*(light the second purple candle)*

Prayer: God of all children, help us to live out your hopes and dreams in this world, to live in the way of Your Shalom. In this time of Advent, help us to prepare for Christ's coming into our lives in a new way. Amen.

### Third Sunday

#### The Ancestors' Candle

Reader #1: Our ancestors in the faith went through Exodus and Exile, leaving behind home and hope. Yet with every generation hope was born anew. The stories of our faith were passed down, and the promises of God were not forgotten. In these days of Advent, we remember our ancestors and their courage to continue the faith.

Reader #2: We light this candle for our ancestors, who faithfully continued to live into God's hope despite the hardships they endured, despite those that fell away. We rejoice with our ancestors in the faith for gifts of God in our lives.

*(light the pink candle)*

Prayer: God of our ancestors, help us to learn from their stories and rejoice in Your Good News as we live today. In this time of Advent, help us to prepare for Christ's coming into our lives in a new way. Amen.

#### Fourth Sunday The People's Candle

Reader #1: The people of our faith now span the globe. We come from all different cultures and walks of life, and God has created us in all our wondrous diversity. In these days of Advent, we also remember our brothers and sisters around the world and in our own country that struggle with poverty, disease and violence in their lives.

Reader #2: We light this candle for all our brothers and sisters, that we may not forget them in our celebrations but be reminded of the call of the prophets, the hope of our children and the faith of our ancestors as we are called to live into God's ways of justice, hope, and love.

*(light the third purple candle)*

Prayer: Creator of the world, help us to recognize our role in the stories of others. Help us to reach out to those in need and to love our neighbors in the way you taught us. In this time of Advent, help us to prepare for Your coming into our lives. Amen.