

Advent Candle Lighting: Light In All Times

Genesis 1:1-5 –Light in the Beginning

Isaiah 60:1-5 –Light in the Past

Revelation 21:22-26 –Light in the Future

John 1:1-5 –Light in the Present

The First Candle: Light in the Beginning

Before anything, there was a formless void. Darkness covered the face of the deep.

Then a wind from God, the Spirit of God, swept over the waters.

The Voice of God said, “Let there be light!”

The first of creation, the first of anything, was light.

We light this first candle in Advent to remind us that God’s light has shined since the beginning, the dawn of hope, the promise of our future.

Lighting of the first (purple) candle

Prayer: Light from our beginnings, Light from creation, shine in our universe, shine in our world, shine in us. May we find light in the darkest of times, knowing that the light can never be extinguished. As we await the birth of the Christ-child, so we await Your light dawning in a new way. Amen.

The Second Candle: Light in the Past

In the despair of Exile, in the hopelessness of abandonment, the dawn of God’s light shone.

The promise of return, the celebration of hope realized.

The prophets declared that God was the light, and that the light was now shining in the people, And that the world would be drawn to their light.

We light this second candle to remind us when hope fails us, when despair enters in,

We may remember that God’s light will shine through others, and will shine through us again.

Lighting of the second (purple) candle

Prayer: Hope of the World, shine Your light on our path before us. May we remember that the light is shining behind us, and we can find traces of Your light in our ancestors stories and songs that have been passed down to us. May we sing Your songs of light when we feel hopeless, knowing that Your light is coming again in a new way. Amen.

The Third Candle: Light in the Future

In the vision of the future, we are told that there will be no more light,
For God is the light, the Lamb of God our lamp.

All shall walk by the light of God, there will never be night. The windows and doors will always be open, for the light will always be shining.

We light this third candle, celebrating the joy of God's light that will shine forever, and ever, and ever.

Lighting of the third (pink) candle

Prayer: Lamb of God, Light of the World, shine forever. May hopelessness and fear and death fade away into the shadows, as we come to know Your love and light in our hearts, in our lives, in our world, forever, and ever, and ever. Amen.

The Fourth Candle: Light in the Present

We look to the past, we look to the future, we look to the beginning. But what we know is now. This time we have, in this moment, right as we breathe: life is happening, now. What came into being in Christ is life, the light of all the people, the light we are sharing when we love one another, when we worship together, when we care for those in need. We have the light of the witnesses of the past. We can become the light for others to see. Right now, as we light this fourth candle, be the light You need, by letting Christ be born in your heart this day.

Lighting of the fourth (purple) candle

Prayer: What has come into being in Christ is life, and the life is the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. The light of the world is Jesus. May it shine in us this Christmas. May it shine in us every moment. May it shine in us now. Amen.