

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2019 For All Years

Each week, a refrain from the Advent carol "One Candle Is Lit" (Chalice Hymnal #128) will be sung. The tune is "Cradle Song," which is often an alternate tune to "Away In A Manger." The words were written by Mary Anne Parrott.

This liturgy includes Christmas Eve or Christmas Day for the Christ candle.

First Sunday of Advent: Hope

On the first Sunday of Advent, we look for signs of hope in our world. People helping each other. Walls of separation being broken down. Bridges crossing great divides. We find signs of hope in a family, traveling a long way from home, expecting a baby and being surrounded by the compassion of strangers. We light this first candle for the hope we find in the world, as we wait for Christ to come into our world and lives in a new way.

Lighting of the first Advent candle

"Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night, our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light. Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage. One candle is lit for the hope of the age."

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

On the second Sunday of Advent, we listen for the word of peace. We listen for stories where people stop hurting each other and start helping. We listen for words of peace from leaders, and we remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace. We light this second candle for the peace we listen for, that sings in our hearts, that God's reign is near.

Lighting of the second Advent candle

"Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare, for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace."

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

On the third Sunday of Advent, we feel the joy of God that comes to us through the birth of Christ. We remember how Mary sang a song of joy before Jesus was born, of how God was going to make all things new. We sing our own songs of joy, knowing that even when we are sad now, even when we grieve, our mourning will turn to dancing. We light this third candle for the joy we know in Christ Jesus.

Lighting of the third Advent candle (often the pink candle)

"Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth, join angels in dancing from heaven to earth. Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days."

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we know that God's love has always been with us. God's love has been made known to us in a new way, through the birth of the Christ-child. God has become one of us, the Word that breathes the Spirit into us, and in Christ we know the fullness of God's love. We are called to share that love with the world. We light this fourth candle for the love God has for the whole world.

Lighting of the fourth Advent candle

"Come, wander where lion and lamb gently play, where evil is banished and faith takes the day,
A babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes. One candle is lit for God's loving surprise."

Christmas Eve (or Christmas Day): Faith

On this holy eve (holy day), we remember the gifts of God this season of Advent: the hope, peace, joy, and love that has been made known to us in a new way. We light this last candle, remembering that Christ came into our world and lives in an unexpected way, as one of us, and Christ will come again.

Lighting of the Christ candle

"Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear, and signs of a cross in the distance appear.
The word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near. One candle is lit for Christ-birthday here."