

Advent



The graphic features the word "Advent" in a large, white, cursive script with a black outline. It is set against a background of light gray and white paint splashes. Below the text is a horizontal band of orange and black paint splashes, resembling a bee or a flame.

Advent

In the church Advent is the time to prepare our hearts for the *arrival* of Jesus (Advent means “arrival”). It begins four Sundays before Christmas and culminates with the Christmas Eve celebration.

Advent Candles symbolize the Light of Jesus coming into the world. Every week another candle is lit. Each candle represents the gifts God brings to each of us:

Week One: **Hope**

Week Two: **Peace**

Week Three: **Joy**

Week Four: **Love**

Christmas Eve: **Christ**

Use the candles provided and this book as a guide. Each week has a scripture reading and written prayer. Recite this on Sunday and throughout each week. In this way your heart will open to the arrival of Christ’s light!!

first week of advent

Hope

Gather around your candles. Read the scripture, speak the prayer, light the candle. For further devotion, read the Christmas Connection.

Scripture — Lamentations 3:21-24:

- ²¹ Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have **hope**:
²² Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.
²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

Prayer of Hope:

Great God of **Hope**, this season of Advent comes in the year of Covid. We are struggling under the weight of numbers. We are lonely from the distancing. We are masked, but that has not blocked the arguments of pandemic. In this darkness we despair. We cry for your **hope** to come. Remind us of your salvation. Show us your plans that bring life to the full. Let Your light of **Hope** burn in our hearts. Amen.

Now, light the Purple Candle of Hope



CHRISTMAS CONNECTION:

ISAIAH 9:1-7

A reading in the candle's light that connects the Advent of Hope to Jesus



second week of advent

Peace

Gather around your candles. Light prior week's candles.

Read the scripture, speak the prayer, light the candle.

For further devotion, read the Christmas Connection.

Scripture — John 14:27, 16:33

14:27 **Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. ...

16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have **peace**. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Prayer of Peace:

Great God of **Peace**, this season of Advent comes in the year of Covid. Our nation and our communities are divided. We can not even agree on the most basic needs of health. Internally we are fragmenting, frustrated and depressed. We need your **peace** to overcome and act as glue to bind. To heal us and empower us to be your children - **peacemakers** in this world. So let Your light of **Peace** burn in our hearts. Amen.

Now, light the **Purple** Candle of Peace



*Gather around your candle. Light prior week's candles.
Read the scripture, speak the prayer, light the candle.
For further devotion, read the Christmas Connection.*

Scripture — Luke 1:39-40, 44-45

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ...

⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for **joy**.

⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Prayer of Joy:

Great God of **Joy**, this season of Advent comes in the year of Covid. We are distracted by mandates. We miss family and friends in our homes. This season feels bleak, but so did the first Christmas. Today, as then, we know You are at work to bring good. Help us to see, hear, and feel your good works. Give us laughter to leap, because good will triumph. Let Your light of **Joy** burn in our hearts. Amen.

Now, light the **Pink** Candle of Joy



Gather around your candles. Light prior week's candles.

Read the scripture, speak the prayer, light the candle.

For further devotion, read the Christmas Connection.

Scripture — John 3:16-17

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Prayer of Love:

Great God of **Love**, this season of Advent comes in the year of Covid. Most Christmas seasons are a rush of shopping and parties and cookies. But this season our traditions have ground to a halt. We ask You to create out of this time an unexpected gift. In the differences help us to remember Your **love**. Our greatest gift has nothing to do with our traditions and everything to do with You. The God who **loves** us enough to arrive in the darkness. So Let Your light of **Love** burn in our hearts. Amen.

Now, light the Purple Candle of Love



Christmas Eve

Christ

Gather around your candles. Light prior week's candles. Read the scripture, speak the prayer, light the candle. Tomorrow read the Christmas Connection.

Scripture — Isaiah 9:2, 6

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light...

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Prayer of Christ:

Great God, Father, Son, and Spirit, this season of Advent comes in the year of Covid. We are a world lost in the darkness. Everywhere and everything is disrupted. Where is the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love? Praise be to our God, Your light arrives with the coming of a baby. The child born to bring salvation, the fullness of life, to all the world. Today we celebrate You because our darkness is overcome. We have life because the light of **Christ** burns in our hearts. Amen.

Now, light the ~~White~~ Christ Candle



CHRISTMAS CONNECTION:

LUKE 2:1-7



The light of all the candles arrives in Jesus, a baby born to save all. On Christmas celebrate communion.

Bread: Luke 22:19, "His body broken for you, Take and Eat"

Cup: Luke 22:20, "His blood shed for you, Take and Drink"

The people walking in
darkness have seen a
great light

on those living in
the land of deep
darkness a light
has dawned...

To us
a child
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Christ

Hope
Peace
Joy
Love