

Readings for Lighting the Advent Candles **(Option 4)**

First Sunday in Advent: The Sunday of HOPE

Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ. He is the one appointed by God to be judge of all things. He is the one through whom God has promised to save and redeem his people.

We light this candle today to remind us that he is our hope and the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises he has made to us and for the light he has brought into the world.

Light the First Candle

Second Sunday in Advent: The Sunday of PEACE

Our peace is found in God and in his son, Jesus Christ. John the Baptist and all the prophets reminds us, that to receive peace we must be prepared for it.

We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the prince of Peace, one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope he gives us and for the peace he bestows.

Light the Second Candle

Third Sunday in Advent: The Sunday of JOY

Our joy is in God and in his son, Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do.

We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

Light the Third Candle

Fourth Sunday in Advent: The Sunday of LOVE

Jesus shows us God's perfect love. He is God's perfect love in human form. Those who believe in him and live in him, live in love. Love transforms and perfects all things. It never ends.

We light this candle today to remind us that God is love. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

Light the Fourth Candle

Christmas Eve (Only the Christ Candle is lighted on Christmas Eve)

We thank God for his gift of Jesus. We thank him that through Christ his light has come into the world and made it possible for us to see, and in seeing, to rejoice. His truth, his love, his very self, transforms all who receive him.

Light the Christ Candle

Prayer:

Loving God, Emmanuel, we thank you for being with us – for sending your Son to walk with us and to lead us. Grant that the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of which we have heard and spoken of throughout Advent may be fully realized in us as we worship and serve you through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.