

Advent 2020 – Home Advent Wreath Liturgy

Traditionally, we light candles of hope, peace, joy and love during Advent, and you can do this at home, with or without a wreath, with candles of any color or shape. Pick a time each week, before dinner, perhaps, to light a new candle, with scripture, prayer, or song. The liturgies below are one suggestion. You can also let the candles be part of your table every night of the week, as the light grows toward Christmas.

First Sunday of Advent

Today we light the first candle, the candle of HOPE.

Scriptures: Mark 13:24-27 | Isaiah 64: 1-9 | Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

*We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:9)*

Questions for Meditation: Where have you seen hope this week? What is something, big or small, that made you feel hopeful?

Prayer: Thank you God, for the hope you offer—dreams of a better world, your vision and grace. Mold us in your way, to keep awake to your hope.

Second Sunday of Advent

Today we light two candles, the candles of HOPE and PEACE

Scriptures for this week: Mark 1:1-8 | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 40: 3b-5*

Questions for Meditation: How do you get ready? What rough place might be made smooth in your life?

Prayer: God of hope and peace, the world is full of rough places. In you, we find another way. Help us to practice peace, to keep hope and peace alive in our world today. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

Today, we light three candles, the candles of HOPE, PEACE, and JOY.

Scriptures: Luke 1:46-55 | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Ps. 126

*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.*

*Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;*

then it was said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us,

and we rejoiced. (Psalm 126: 1-3)

Questions for Meditation: Where does Joy come from for you? From a surprise, from being thankful? How can you help Joy grow within you this season?

Prayer: O God of Good News, God of hope, peace and joy, thank you for your action in the world. Wake us up so we see you in the world, so we cultivate your seeds of good news.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today, we light four candles, the candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE

Scriptures: Luke 1:26-45 | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:34-3)

Questions for Meditation: What have you thought was impossible? When is something impossible for one person alone, but possible for many? How do imagination and love work together?

Prayer: O God of Great Love, Thank you for your many gifts, your gifts of hope, peace, joy and love, and for your gift of community. Inspire us to work together in love to be your body in the world.