

Advent candle liturgy 2022. There are 4 simple elements offered for each week. You're invited to select and use/adapt whichever elements are helpful for you.

Week 1 – 27 November

Introduction and invocation

On this first Sunday in Advent, we begin our preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ at Bethlehem.

Today we light the first Advent candle as a symbol of **waiting and expectation**.

Come, Lord, Jesus, come.

The lighting of the candle

As the first candle is lit, a reader says:

Jesus said, "Keep awake for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." (*Matt 24:42*)

Response

Singing the Faith 168 – EITHER sing verse 1, OR:

Leader Come Lord Jesus

Response ***Come Lord Jesus, to this world of ours***

Prayer

O Lord, be gracious to us; we wait for you.

Be our strength every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. (*Isaiah 33: 2*)

We long for light in the dark places of our world.

Increase our desire for Christ's coming;
strengthen our waiting with purpose.

May your light lead us in this time of expectation. Amen.

Week 2 – 4 December

Introduction and invocation

On this second Sunday of Advent, we relight the candle of waiting and expectation, and light the second Advent candle, as a sign of the **hope** we have in Christ.

Lord, we need your hope in our world.

The lighting of the candles

As the second candle is lit, a reader says:

There's the root of our ancestor Jesse, breaking through the earth and growing tree tall,
tall enough for everyone everywhere to see and take hope! (*Romans 15: 12, The Message*)

For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe. (*1 Timothy 4: 10*)

Response

StF 168 – EITHER sing verses 1 & 2, OR:

Leader Come Lord Jesus, we need your hope

Response *Come Lord Jesus, to this world of ours*

“Hope is the capacity to see God in the midst of trouble, and to be co-workers with the Holy Spirit who is dwelling in us. From this vision derives the strength to be steadfast, remain firm and work to change the reality in which we find ourselves.” (*Kairos Palestine*)

“Hope is believing in spite of the evidence, and then watching the evidence change.” (*Jim Wallis*)

Prayer

Living, loving, growing God,
help us to grasp your reality
and to see hope being born in hard places,
and where people have lost heart. Amen. (*Jan Sutch Pickard*)

Week 3 – 11 December

Introduction and invocation

On this third Sunday of Advent, we relight the first two candles, of expectation and of hope, and we light a third candle as a sign of **peace**. Lord Jesus, fill us with your peace.

The lighting of the candles

As the third candle is lit, a reader says:

He is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. (*Isaiah 9: 6b-7a*)

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (*John 14: 27*)

Response

StF 168 – EITHER sing verses 1, 2 & 3, OR:

Leader Come Lord Jesus, we need your hope
 Fill us with your peace

Response *Come Lord Jesus, to this world of ours*

Prayer

Blessed Jesus, we lift up the earth and all humankind;
breathe love into our prayers
with a desire for nothing other than peace:
peace in our hearts,
peace in our nation,
peace amongst all people,
peace for all creation. Amen.

Week 4 – 18 December

Introduction and invocation

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we relight the first three candles, of expectation, hope and peace, and we light the fourth Advent candle, as a sign of the **love** of God, shown to us in Jesus Christ.

Lord, touch us and our world with love.

The lighting of the candles

As the fourth candle is lit, a reader says:

¹⁷ For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, ¹⁸ who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. ¹⁹ You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. (*Deut. 10: 17-19*)

Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (*John 13: 34-35*)

Response

StF 168 – EITHER sing verses 1 - 4, OR:

Leader Come Lord Jesus, we need your hope
 Fill us with your peace
 Touch us with your love

Response *Come Lord Jesus, to this world of ours*

Prayer

God of love and mercy,
may your Holy Spirit fill our hearts with your love,
the love that was made flesh in your son Jesus.
Move our lives to show your love,
for with your love, all things are possible.
Amen.

Christmas Day

Introduction and invocation

The day of joy and celebration has arrived! Jesus is born!
We relight the four candles of Advent – of expectation, hope, peace and love
- and we light the central Christ candle.
Jesus has come.

The lighting of the candles

As the Christ candle is lit, a reader says:

... the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (*Luke 2: 10-11*)

Response

StF 168 – EITHER sing verses 1 - 5, OR:

Leader Come Lord Jesus, we need your hope
 Fill us with your peace
 Touch us with your love
 May we see your light

Response *Welcome Lord Jesus*
We receive your hope
We share your peace
We celebrate your love
We follow your light

Prayer

Loving God,
We thank you for the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour,
May we always welcome him into our world,
our community,
our homes,
our lives.
Amen.