



Advent Table Liturgy

The four weeks leading up to Christmas Eve

Advent Greeting

Leader: Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People: **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

Advent Wreath

Week 1 - Candle of Hope

Reflect: During the first week of Advent, we light the candle of HOPE. With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ who is our only Hope. From the prophet Isaiah, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."

Light: One purple candle.

Read: Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-19; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

Pray: God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. *Amen.*

Week 2 - Candle of Peace

Reflect: During the second week of Advent, we light the candle of PEACE, giving thanks for the peace Jesus brings us, and the promise of peace on earth when he returns in glory. From the prophet Isaiah, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Light: Two purple candles.

Read: Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15; Mark 1.1-8

Pray: God of peace, during this Advent season, keep us from getting caught up in the busyness and chaos of the world around us. Help us to slow down, so that we may find rest in the Prince of Peace, your son, Jesus Christ. As we prepare for his coming, make us instruments of your peace in our homes, in our schools, in our work and in our world. *Amen.*

Week 3 - Candle of Joy

Reflect: During the third week of Advent, we light the candle of JOY, because Christmas assures us that God will turn our mourning into dancing, and every tear shall be wiped away, in the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. From the Book of Revelation, "Behold, I make all things new."

Light: Two purple & one pink candle.

Read: Isaiah 61.1-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24; Luke 1.46-55; John 1.6-28

Pray: God of joy, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Keep us from seeking happiness in things that will not last, for we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Teach us instead to find joy in the gift of your Son, who came into this world with nothing, yet gave us everything. May his joy bubble up in our hearts and overflow to all we meet this Advent season. *Amen.*

Week 4 - Candle of Love

Reflect: During the fourth week of Advent, we light the candle of LOVE. With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us receive and become the Love of God as we await the return of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. From the Gospel of John, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Light: All four perimeter candles.

Read: 2 Samuel 7.1-16; Psalm 89.1-26; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

Pray: God of love, you sent your Son, Jesus, to shine bright like the sun, lighting the way for all who walk in darkness. May the light of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love shine bright in us as we approach his coming, that we may be ready to welcome him on Christmas day and every day. *Amen.*

Sing

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
O come, O come Emmanuel
I Wonder as I Wander
My Soul in Stillness Waits

Dona Nobis Pacem
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Of the Father's Love Begotten
Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Concluding Prayer

Lord, as we look to the coming of Jesus, grant that the light of your presence will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming. *Amen.*

Christmastide Table Liturgy

Christmas Eve through the Twelve Days of Christmas

Christmastide Greeting

Leader: For unto us a child is born,

People: **Unto us a son is given.**

Christ Candle

Reflect: With the arrival of Christmas, we light the Christ candle in celebration of Jesus, the light of the world. The prophet Isaiah declared, “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” And Jesus himself proclaimed, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Light: All five candles.

Read: Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20

Sing

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
Silent Night
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Joy to the World!
O Little Town of Bethlehem
The First Noel
We Three Kings of Orient Are