



THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Hope in the Promise of the Cross

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 11:1-9**

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will grow and bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord."

SECOND READING: **1 Peter 2:22-24**

"He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live by righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."

Light the Candle

Light the first purple candle — the Candle of Hope. As you light the Hope candle, read the scripture passages out loud.

Reflect

- Hope means trusting that God is working for good, even when we can't see how yet.
- Long ago, God gave His people a promise through the prophet Isaiah. He said that a new branch would grow from the old stump of Jesse's family—a sign that life would spring up when everything looked dead. That “branch” is Jesus!
- When Jesus came, He showed us that God's promises are always true. He brings light where there is darkness, love where there is pain, and healing forgiveness where there is sin.
- Just like God's people waited for the Savior, we wait in hope for all that God is still doing in us and in the world.

Talk

Can you think of a time when you had to trust God before you could see how things would turn out?

Ask

- What's something you're hoping for this Advent season?
- How does Jesus' example give us hope even when things are hard?
- How can we help other people have hope?

Do together

Create “Hope Hearts.” Cut out heart shapes. On each, write or draw something you hope for this Advent (for others, your family, your faith). Lay them around your Advent wreath. Pray together over each hope throughout the week.

Pray

Dear God, You are the God of Hope. As we light this first candle, we remember that You bring new life where there once was none: like a green shoot growing from an old stump. Thank You for sending Jesus, our promised Savior, who brings light, healing forgiveness, and hope. Help us to wait with trusting hearts and to share Your hope with others this Advent. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Peace from the Prince of Peace

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 9:6**

“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.”

SECOND READING: **John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not let your hearts be troubled.”

Light the Candle

Light the second purple candle — the Candle of Peace — along with the first. As you light the Peace candle, read the scripture passages out loud. Watch how the light from the wreath grows brighter as hope and peace shine together.

Reflect

- Peace doesn't always mean life is quiet or calm; it means our hearts rest in God even when life feels stormy.
- Isaiah promised a Savior who would bring peace between God and His people. Jesus fulfilled that promise.
- Talk about what helps your heart feel calm when you're worried or upset and how you can invite Jesus into that.

Ask

- How does knowing Jesus bring peace to your heart?
- How can you or your family bring peace into your home, work, or school?
- What can we pray for today to help others find peace?

Do together

Create "Peace Doves." Cut out paper doves and write names of people or situations (or draw them) where you want God's peace to come. Lay them around your Advent wreath. Pray together over each dove throughout the week.

Pray

Dear Lord, you are the Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father. You sent your one and only Son, Jesus, to earth to bring us peace. We thank you for forming us, loving us, and making a way for us to come into Your presence. Bless us with the Peace of Christ that is beyond all understanding. We pray for your Peace to guide our hearts home to your caring and compassionate embrace. Help us to share your calm and kindness wherever we go. Amen.



THE CANDLE OF JOY

Joy in God's Promises

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 55:1-12**

"Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters ... Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare ... You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

FIRST READING: **Luke 1:26-55**

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.'"

Light the Candle

Light the third candle, the pink Candle of Joy along with the others. Notice how its color reminds us to rejoice because Jesus' coming brings joy to the world! As you light the Joy candle, read the scripture passages out loud.

Reflect

- When Mary learned she would be the mother of Jesus, her heart overflowed with joy, even though she didn't know how everything would turn out. Her joy came from trusting God's promise.
- Isaiah told God's people long before that joy would come when they turned their hearts toward God—like thirsty people coming to water, or hungry people finding a feast. God promised that His word and His love would never fail, and that His people would “go out in joy and be led forth in peace.”
- Mary's song shows us that the promise is coming true! Jesus is the Living Water, the Bread of Life, the One who fills hungry hearts with joy that doesn't run out.
- Joy isn't just a happy feeling...it's knowing that God is with us and His promises are sure.
- Even in hard times or ordinary days, we can find joy because Jesus has come, and He is coming again.

Talk

When have you felt joy that came from God, even when things weren't perfect?

Ask

- What brings you joy this season?
- How did Mary's faith help her find joy in God's plan?
- How can we find joy in God's plan for us?
- How can we share joy with others this week?

Do together

Make a “Joy Jar.” Each family member writes or draws one joyful blessing or fun memory on a slip of paper and adds it to the hearts and doves around the wreath.

Pray

Gracious God, as we light this pink candle, our hearts are filled with joy at the nearness of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank You for inviting us, like in Isaiah's words, to come and be filled with Your goodness. Thank You for Mary's song that reminds us how You lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. Lord, in a world that can feel heavy or sad, You are our true joy. Let Your joy fill our homes, shine through our hearts, and spill over into the lives of others. We rejoice in the promise of Jesus, our Savior and King. Amen.



THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Love Born in a Manger

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 53:4-6**

“Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the sin of us all.”

SECOND READING: **John 10:14–15**

“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

Light the Candle

Light the fourth candle, the Candle of Love, along with the others. The light now nearly fills the wreath—just as God’s love fills the world through Jesus. As you light the Love candle, read the scripture passages out loud.

Reflect

- God's love didn't stay far away. It came close. Love was born in a manger.
- Isaiah told God's people long ago that the Savior would come, not as a powerful king, but as a servant who would carry our pain and heal our hearts. Jesus is that promised one. The Good Shepherd who loves His sheep so much that He laid down His life for them.
- From the straw of the stable to the wood of the cross, Jesus' life was love in action. A love that serves, sacrifices, and stays close.
- At Christmas, we remember that real love doesn't just feel warm inside; it reaches out, forgives, helps, and gives. God's love is the kind that never gives up on us, even when we wander like lost sheep.

Talk

How can we show love that looks like Jesus' love—kind, patient, forgiving, and selfless?

Ask

- How is Jesus' birth an act of love?
- What's a loving thing we can do for someone this week?
- How does knowing Jesus as the Good Shepherd make you feel safe and loved?

Do together

Create a "Love Chain." Write ways your family can show love this week (serve a neighbor, make cookies, help a friend). Add a new link for every act of kindness completed. Lay the chain around your Advent wreath.

Pray

Gracious and loving God, as we gather in the glow of this Advent wreath, we remember the love that led You to send Your Son, Jesus, into the world for us. Thank You for being the Good Shepherd who knows us, forgives us, and never leaves us. Thank You for Jesus, who carried our sin and has brought us peace. As we prepare for Christmas, fill our hearts with Your love so we can share it with others—through kindness, patience, and care. Let Your love shine brightly in our homes and in our world. We thank You that Jesus' birth and His cross show us what true love looks like. In His name we pray, Amen.



THE CHRIST CANDLE

Light of the World. All Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.
Fulfilled in Christ

SCRIPTURE READING: **“The Light Has Come”**

(Adapted from Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2:30–32; John 1:1–5, 9; John 8:12; John 12:46)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; in Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. And when Simeon saw the baby Jesus, he said, “My eyes have seen Your salvation, a light for revelation to the nations, and the glory of Your people Israel.” Then Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in Me should remain in darkness.”

Light the Candle

Light the Christ Candle in the center of your wreath, along with the others. Read the scripture as the candles shine together. The light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love is now complete in Jesus, the Light of the World. As they glow, remember that Christ’s light never fades and shines through all who believe in Him.

Christ

Our Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love are fulfilled.

Reflect

Every candle we lit during Advent tells part of God's story:

- **Hope** because Jesus heals and restores.
- **Peace** because He brings calm to our hearts.
- **Joy** because His presence fills us with gladness.
- **Love** because He gave His life for us.
- The **Christ Candle** reminds us that all of these promises come true in Jesus.

Ask

- Which Advent candle meant the most to you this year, and why?
- How has Jesus brought hope, peace, joy, or love to you or your family this season?
- How can your family shine Christ's light in the new year?
- What it means for you or your family to live as people who reflect the light of Christ in the year ahead?

Do together

Have a "Light Celebration." Use small pieces of paper and on each piece of paper, write or draw one way you can share Jesus' light this week — for example: be kind to my brother, pray for someone who's sad, help clean up without being asked, say thank you to God.

Pray

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, We thank you for coming to live among us. From the beginning, You were the Word and the Light that darkness could not overcome. You brought hope to the hopeless, peace to the troubled, joy to the weary, and love to the lost. As we light the Christ Candle, we remember that You are the fulfillment of every promise—our Savior, our Shepherd, and our King. Shine Your light into our hearts and drive out the shadows of fear, sin, and sorrow. Let Your light fill this home and every place we go.

Help us to carry Your light into the world around us. When others feel alone, let us bring comfort; when others are burdened, let us bring kindness; when others are lost, let us share Your love. May Your light guide our steps in the year ahead, so that we live as people who belong to You—shining with hope, peace, joy, and love. We thank you for the gift of Your presence, the miracle of your birth, and the promise of Your everlasting light. Amen.