

Advent Candles for 2020

Like many things in 2020, the season of Advent is going to be very different. While we are hoping to continue to have some people present in the sanctuary during the season, many (if not most) will continue to join us from home using technology. But that does not mean that we cannot light Advent candles together.

In order to participate, every home should set up a circle with five lights. Packages of battery-operated tea lights with a fabric Advent cloth are available from the church upon your request. Even though some people will be in the church building, the primary place of claiming God's light is where each person lives, so everyone should set this up in their own home.

During Advent we lament before we light – naming those things which oppose or diminish hope, peace, joy and love. We name them and *then* claim the power of that light over them.

As we work through these liturgies, each person is invited to contribute one word or name several of the things which oppose hope or shatter peace, the things that quench our joy, the things that numb us to love and to the presence of Emmanuel. You are encouraged to write these words in this booklet and share them, if possible and willing, in the chat window on Zoom.



This pamphlet and much of the text is based on a concept of Maren Tirabassi

First Sunday in Advent

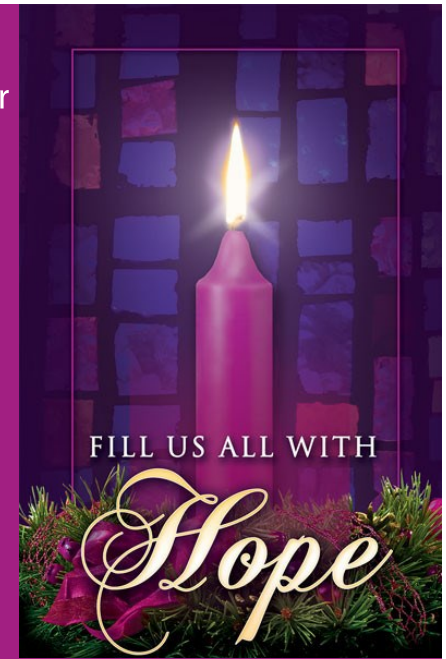
L: in our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share, in this season of *coronavirus*. We affirm that our candles mean *we* claim the power to call this season *Advent* when God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

P: We light the candle of hope in the face of ...

We pause to name and write things that seem to conspire against hope like, e.g., Covid-19, wildfires, hurricanes, closed businesses, missing singing etc.

L: God's hope shines on hopelessness, and brightens the path toward peace. Let us pray:

P: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world. Amen



Things that are quenching hope:

Second Sunday in Advent

L: In our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share in this season of *coronavirus*. We affirm that our candles mean we claim the power to call this season *Advent* when God's light comes into the world nothing can overcome it.

We light the candle of hope. (*relight first candle*)

P: We now light the candle of peace in spite of...

We pause to name and write things that seem to conspire against peace like, e.g., racism, anger, extreme partisanship, depression and addiction

L: God's peace illuminates the possibility of reconciliation and healing and brightens the path to joy.

P: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope and peace on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world. Amen



Things that are quenching peace:

Third Sunday in Advent

L: In our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share in this season of *coronavirus*. We affirm that our candles mean we claim the power to call this season *Advent*, when God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

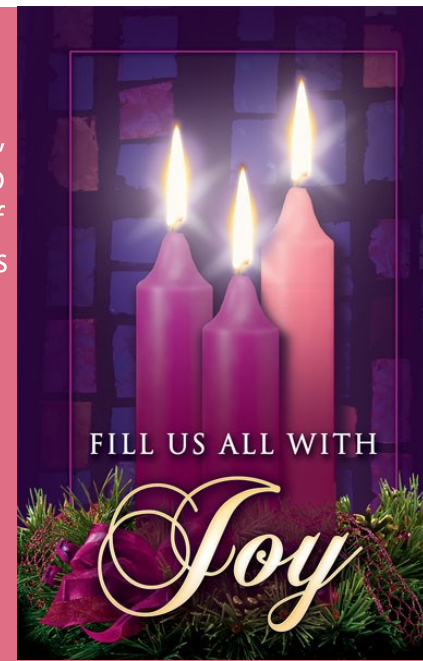
We light the candles of hope and peace. (*relight candles*)

P: We now light the candle of joy in spite of ...

We pause to name and write things that seem to conspire against joy like, e.g., depression, grief, loss and regret.

L: God's joy ignites embers under loss and sorrow and brightens the path to love.

P: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come, lighting hope, peace and joy on the wick of our lives so that we may shine on our world with a simple smile, an unexpected laughter. Amen



Things that are quenching joy:

Fourth Sunday in Advent

L: In our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share in this season of *coronavirus*. We affirm that our candles mean *we* claim the power to call this season *Advent*, when God's light comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

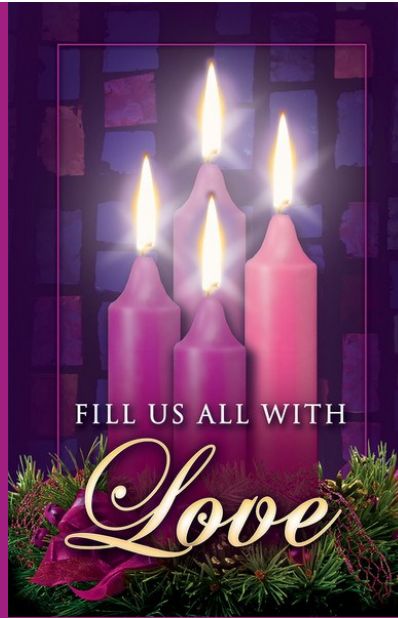
We light the candles of hope, peace, and joy. (relight candles)

P: We now light the candle of love even when many things dim our sparkling...

We pause to name and write things that seem to conspire against love like, e.g., loneliness, racism, abuse, hatred etc.

L: God's love illuminates hatred and a compassionate heart and brightens the path to the birth of Christ.

P: Emmanuel, God be with us in the week to come lighting hope, peace, joy and love on the wick of our lives, so that we may shine on our world your unconditional welcome to all. Amen.



Things that are quenching love:

Christmas Eve/Day

L: In our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share in this season of *coronavirus*. We affirm that our candles mean *we* claim the power to call this season *Christmas*, when God's Emmanuel comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

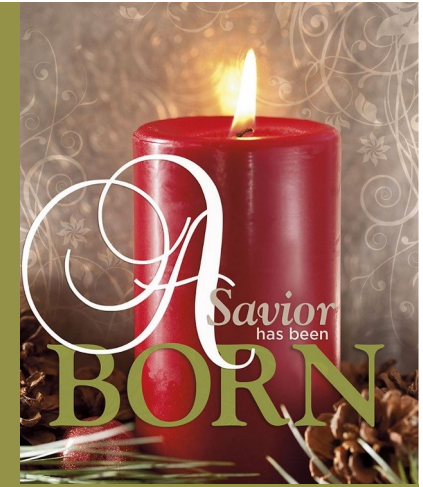
We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. (relight candles)

P: We now light the Christ candle even when it may seem as if God is not with us because of...

We pause to name and write things that make it seem to us that God in Christ is not with us like, e.g., a lack of love, kindness and mercy etc.

L: God's love illuminates hatred and a compassionate heart and brightens the path to the birth of Christ.

P: Emmanuel, God be with us in the week to come lighting hope, peace, joy and love on the wick of our lives, so that the world may know that Christ is indeed come and God is with us. Amen.



Things that are make it seem as if God is not with us: