

Advent Candle Lighting – Show Us the Way

First Sunday of Advent

Leader: In the nighttime of despair,
we are filled with doubt.

**People: We are overwhelmed with busyness and the compulsion to do.
We have lost our way.**

Leader: The night is almost over.
We are emerging from our doubt.

People: O God, show us the way of your heart.

Leader: Come quickly, to show us.

All: The dawn is nigh. Show us the way.

(Light the first Advent candle.)

Leader: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ is coming to free us from despair.
He will show us the way.

Second Sunday of Advent

Leader: In the nighttime of fear,
we build walls and fences.

**People: Rather than showing hospitality,
we keep the stranger away.
We forget the truth that God's love is for everyone.**

Leader: O God, show us the way of your heart.

All: Come quickly, show us.

(Light the second Advent candle.)

Leader: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ is coming to free us from chaos.
He will show us the way.

Third Sunday of Advent

Leader: In the nighttime of sorrow,
we become impatient and lose hope.

**People: Our joy disappears,
and our songs become silent.
We forget the truth
that God will restore all of creation.**

All: *Come! Walk in the way of God's heart!*

(Light the third Advent candle.)

Leader: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ is coming to free us from pain.
He will show us the way.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leader: In the nighttime of our longing,
we find ourselves far from God's presence.

**People: Even though we yearn to see God's face,
our daily burdens and distractions
keep us from coming near.
We forget that the truest joy
comes from being in God's presence.**

All: *Come! Walk in God's presence.*

(Light the fourth Advent candle.)

Leader: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ is coming to free us from alienation.
He will show us the way.

Christmas

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord!
The fullness of time has come.

People: As the earth brings forth its shoots,

Leader: so God sent the Son,
born into humanity,

People: to show us God's heart.

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Light the Christ candle.)

Leader: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ has come to set us free.
He will show us the way. Alleluia!

Epiphany

Leader: Day has dawned!
The light of Christ has come into the world.

**People: We see God's radiance in creation and in our lives.
We rejoice in God's boundless riches given for all.
We worship and adore our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

All: Come! Let us walk in the way of God's heart!

(Light the Christ candle.)

Leader: Come! Walk in the way of God's heart.
The dawn is breaking!
Christ has come to set us free.
He will show us the way. Alleluia!

Adapted from Leader, Fall 2016. ©2016 MennoMedia.