

Advent Candle Lighting – God Dwells with Us

Advent 1

Leader: As we look with hope to the coming of Christ,
we pause to remember God,
who came into our darkness with marvelous light.
(*pause*)

Let us also expose the weapons of our sinful pride,
releasing them to God
to fashion into tools that sustain us.
(*the first Advent candle is lit*)

The first Advent candle is the candle of hope.

**People: In this light, we receive forgiveness,
knowing that God dwells with us in the present.**

Advent 2

Leader: The coming of Christ brings peace.
Let us pause to remember the God
who brings harmony from dissonance
and speaks life into our dead places.
(*pause*)

Let us confess the violence
of our fractured relationships.
(*the second Advent candle is lit*)

The second Advent candle is the candle of peace.

**People: In this light, we receive forgiveness,
knowing that God dwells in our relationships.**

Advent 3

Leader: In the coming of Jesus, we see God's majesty:
life springs out of death, desperation yields to hope.

Let us pause to consider
the redemptive power of God.

(pause)

Let us confess the desert places in our lives,
the ways we have gone astray,
and all that is broken in our world.

(as the third Advent candle is lit)

The third Advent candle is the candle of love.

**People: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness,
knowing that God dwells
in the midst of transformation.**

Advent 4

Leader: The power of God is held
in the weakness of human flesh.
Let us pause to consider incarnation:
a child born and a Son given.

(pause)

Let us confess our skepticism and doubt,
the weakness of our mortality.

(as the fourth Advent candle is lit)

The fourth Advent candle is the candle of joy.

**People: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness,
knowing that God dwells in the child that is born.**

First Sunday After Christmas

Leader: In both the exuberance of Christ's birth
and the human sorrow that accompanied it,
let us pause to consider God's presence
in both joy and grief.
(pause)
Let us confess the violence
we have experienced and spread,
that God may overcome it with grace.
(pause)
In our distress,
the Advent wreath reminds us of God's steadfast love.

**People: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness.
In his love and pity, Jesus redeems us.**

Epiphany

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look.
There is no partiality in Christ.
How might we let all people in on this mystery?
(pause)
Let us confess our unwillingness to share Christ
with those of other nations, tribes, races, families,
social classes, and denominations.
(pause)
The Advent wreath reminds us
that our light has come.

**People: In this light, we celebrate forgiveness:
the glory of the Lord has risen upon us!**

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