

*For You
are my hope,
O Lord God*

Psalm 71:5

Hope

Week 1

Advent Candle - Hope

The first week of Advent is all about hope. Think about hope as you hear Lamentations 3: 21-24: "But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in the Lord."

Song (candle is lit):
*A candle is burning,
a flame warm & bright;
A candle of HOPE
in December's dark night!
While angels sing blessings
from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now,
for Jesus is nigh.*

By Sandra Dean
South Minister United Church, Ottawa, Canada

Prayer:
*Lord Jesus,
We believe in You,
We know that You can help us
To love and respect each other more.
You are our LIGHT,
The LIGHT that overcomes darkness.
Come, Lord Jesus!*

*"Glory to God in
the highest, And
on earth peace,
goodwill
toward men!"*

Luke 1:14

Peace

Week 2

Advent Candle - Peace

For the second week in Advent, we focus on peace. In John 14:27, Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Song (candle is lit):
*A candle is burning,
A candle of PEACE!
A candle to signal
that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming
to show us the way;
A message of peace
humbly laid in the hay.*

By Sandra Dean
South Minister United Church, Ottawa, Canada

Prayer:
*Lord Jesus,
Quiet our worries and fears in our hearts.
Give us Your peace.
Thank You for the life
You share with us.
Help us to share Your life with others.
Come, Lord Jesus!*

*And the Word became
flesh and dwelt among
us, and we beheld
His glory*

John 1:14

Jesus

Week 3

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Jesus is born

Imagine John, who spent three years with Jesus but never really understood who He was until after Jesus returned to heaven, many years later writing his gospel and looking back.

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory" (John 1:14). John is describing his own experience. Now he gets it! He knows exactly who was among them. As he looks back at the past events in light of the truth, John is amazed that Jesus is God. *That's who we were with! That's who we walked and talked with!*

May the revelation of who Jesus is break upon us in the same way—and transform our lives. Ask the Lord today to shine His light into your heart and to fill you with the wonder of knowing Him.

Song (candle is lit):
*We honour Messiah
with Christ-candle's flame;
Our Christmas Eve candles,
glad tidings proclaim!
O come all you faithful,
Rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us!
The Christian's true LIGHT!*

By Sandra Dean
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Prayer:
We have been waiting for this day, Loving God. We have prepared ourselves for this special day. On this Christmas Day, let us live as those who let hope, peace, joy, and love reign in our lives. As the candles burn brightly and light our path, let us live as those who have the Christ's light burning inside us today and everyday.
Amen.

*And you will have
joy and gladness,
and many will
rejoice at his birth.*

Luke 1:14

Joy

Week 4

Advent Candle - Joy

During the third week in Advent, we spend time thinking about joy. From Psalm 5:11, we hear these words, "But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;

let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, so that those who love your name may exult in you."

Song (candle is lit):
*A candle is burning,
A candle of JOY!
A candle to welcome
Brave Mary's new boy!
Our hearts fill with wonder,
And eyes light & glow,
As joy brightens winter,
Like sunshine on snow!*

Sandra Dean
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Prayer:
*Jesus,
We want Your coming
to make a difference
in how we live and love.
Open our hearts to hear You
telling us how we can bring
peace and joy to others.
Come, Lord Jesus!*

*For God so loved
the world that
He gave His only
begotten Son*

John 3:16

Love

Week 4
Advent Candle - Love

In this final week of Advent, our attention is on love. Listen for the call to love in these words. Matthew 22:36-40 says, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Song (candle is lit):
*A candle is burning,
A candle of LOVE!
A candle to point us
to heaven above!
A baby for Christmas!
A wonderful birth!
For Jesus is bringing
God's love to our earth!*

Sandra Dean
South Minister United Church, Ottawa, Canada

Prayer:
*Come, Lord Jesus.
Warm our hearts with Your love.
Help us to prepare for Your coming.
Help us to see the good things we can do.
Help us to see the good things others do.
Come, Lord Jesus!*