

ADVENT LITANY

Introduction for all four Sundays in Advent

LEADER 1: What is more wondrous than this?

LEADER 2: God's irrational and abundant love became known to us as a vulnerable, human baby.

PEOPLE: God came to live among us.

LEADER 1: It is a mystery beyond our comprehension!

PEOPLE: God came to live among us!

First Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Hope



LEADER 1: Christians around the world await the advent of Christ.
A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon:
a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn at the end of the world's night.
It seems too amazing to be true!
We gather in wonder. We wait as a people of hope.

PEOPLE: Jesus, Light of the World, "Emmanuel", God-with-us, the Promised One.

LEADER 2: Today, Christian people around the world anticipate a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.
Jesus has come... and is coming, to bring a kingdom of justice and peace.

PEOPLE: This is irrational and beyond our understanding!

LEADER 1: Let this first Advent candle stand for hope not based on wishful thinking,
but belief in the unbelievable.
We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift.
In the midst of darkness and imperfection, in the midst of wonder, we hope.

PEOPLE: We hope for peace and prosperity for all nations, for security to be known in every land.

LEADER 2: "Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.
Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.
The night is far gone, the day is near."

PEOPLE: Let us embrace God's irrational love and wait for the light as a people of hope.
Jesus is the Light of the World, "Emmanuel", God-with-us, the Promised One.

Second Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Peace

LEADER 1: The season of Advent continues.
We join with people around the world in lighting the Advent candles.

PEOPLE: This is the irrational season, but hope lives in us and will abide with us.

LEADER 2: Last Sunday, the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce
the darkness of desolation and sin.

PEOPLE: Today, we light a second candle and wait with hope for the time
when righteousness will flourish and peace abound in a healed creation.

LEADER 1: This light, too, must brave great darkness.

PEOPLE: In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves,
and when all the earth stands under the threat of terrorism, we light a fire called peace.

LEADER 2: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict,
but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all.
That is the peace for which we dare to hope.

PEOPLE: Jesus comes to bring peace
to those who have been separated from God and from one another.

LEADER 1: The root of Jesse is coming, the One who will rule us with wisdom and might.

PEOPLE: Let us see God's vision of righteousness and peace.

LEADER 2: "The wolf shall live with the lamb. The leopard shall lie down with the kid."

PEOPLE: It seems impossible....but with God, nothing is impossible. We will see it!

LEADER 1: "The calf, and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child will lead them."

PEOPLE: "Righteousness will flourish and peace abound."
Blessed be the Lord, who alone does wondrous things!



Third Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Love

LEADER 1: Jesus is the Light of the World, "Emmanuel", God-with-us, the Promised One.

PEOPLE: Now is the advent of the long waited Messiah, our bringer of hope,
our Prince of Peace,
our leader of love.

LEADER 2: In this irrational season we wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.

PEOPLE: At first there was the frail light of a single candle,
daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin, calling us to hope.

LEADER 1: A second candle, a gentle persistent fire,
reminds us that this violent world is not our eternal home,
that we must walk with Jesus in the ways of peace.

PEOPLE: And today's candle reminds us of God's love,
reckless and extravagant, for all people everywhere.

LEADER 2: Wake up to God's vision of love.

PEOPLE: For God so loved the world that a child was given.
A savior came, in the form of Love Incarnate.
And love lived on....and the darkness has not overcome it.

LEADER 1: Wake up to God's vision of love! The impossible can happen!

PEOPLE: "The blind receive their sight,
the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed,
the dead are raised
and the poor have good news brought to them."

LEADER 2: We gather, we wait,
we long for the dawning of God's pervasive, enduring, and healing love.

PEOPLE: We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.



Fourth Sunday of Advent - The Candle of Joy

- LEADER 1: We live with hope. We work for peace. We rejoice in God's love. Joy to the world!
- LEADER 2: Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns. Let us, our songs employ!
- PEOPLE: Let us sing to the glory of God.
Let us sing in the name of Jesus, who gives us hope when hope seems inconceivable.
- LEADER 1: And peace when peace seems impossible.
- PEOPLE: And lovewe rejoice in God's extravagant, irrational love.
- LEADER 2: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,
and they will call him 'Emmanuel' , 'God with us'."
- PEOPLE: Hatred and warfare, injustice and suffering, are not the last word, for they are not of God.
- LEADER 1: We hear again the promise of peace,
coming in the One who lived Shalom among all people.
- PEOPLE: We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness.
- LEADER 2: We feel again the joy that comes through the mystery of the child in the manger.
- PEOPLE: We are a people of hope, peace, love and joy. Joy to the world!
- LEADER 1: Let every heart prepare Him room.
- PEOPLE: And heaven and nature sing.

