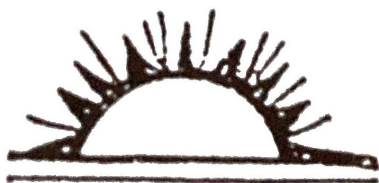




Advent Insert



O radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal light, sun of justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness And the shadow of death.

The First Advent Candle ~ the Candle of Hope

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 1



Leader: For Christians around the world this is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin anew to await the coming of Christ ~ Emmanuel: God with us. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting these Advent candles as symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

People: We gather as people of HOPE.

Leader: Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. In this deeply cynical time of widespread despair and sense that there are no good alternatives to what is, we watch alertly for the light, for signs of the new creation, for the fullness of Christ's reign. We light this first advent candle of hope.

[the first blue candle is lit]

People: We wait expectantly for the advent of hope. Lord Jesus, come soon.

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 2 and 4

The Second Candle ~ the Candle of Peace

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 1



Leader: For hundreds of years, people have lit advent candles to mark this time of waiting and preparation for the coming anew of Christ into our world, into our hearts and homes this year.

People: We gather as a people of PEACE.

Leader: When images of violence are all around us, when conflict kills in so many corners of our globe, when the whole scale of the destruction of creation and extinction of species is horrific, we remember Jesus comes as the Prince of Peace. We light this candle for his light to show us ways to weave a culture of peace – peace not merely as the absence of war and conflict, but peace as the fullness of God's blessing for all.

[the first & second candles are lit]

People: We wait expectantly for the advent of peace. Lord Jesus, come soon.

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 5 and 7

The Third Candle ~ the Candle of Joy

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 1



Leader: In the hope and peace of Christ, we find a deep quiet joy. Make us watchful that we may be found awake and rejoicing in Christ's coming.

People: We gather as people of joy.

Leader: In times filled with anxiety, pressure and sadness, Jesus promises a new life of deep joy. Joy is the fruit of God's Spirit in us. We open ourselves to the delicate, distinct touch of Christ's gift of grace and joy. May its echoes reach far and wide. We light this third candle to joyfully share our thanks for the riches of God's grace.

[the first three candles are lit]

People: We wait expectantly for the advent of joy. Lord Jesus, come soon.

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 3 and 6

The Fourth Candle ~ the Candle of Love

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 1



Leader: The transformative power of love is the root of our hope, peace and joy. Love is the keystone that holds our interdependent world together and breathes life into us all.

People: We gather as people of love.

Leader: In a time of broken relationships, torn community, loss and grief, we know God to be pure everlasting unconditional love poured for each of us and for creation. We live in that love and live for love. Without love all we do is for naught. The ultimate sign of that love of God is the baby born and laid in a manger ~ the heart and wisdom of the universe.

[all four candles around the outside of the wreath are lit]

People: We wait expectantly for the advent of love. Lord Jesus, come soon.

Hymn 89: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* verse 2 and 4

O Lord, hear our prayer

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, and then a series of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics 'O Lord, hear our prayer,' are aligned under the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with eighth notes: F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3, C3. The lyrics 'O Lord, hear our prayer. When we call an - swer us. O' are aligned under the second staff. The score includes various chords (Em, C6, D, G, C, Am6, B) and a 'fine' marking at the end of the second staff.

O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. When we call an - swer us. O

Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer. Come and lis - ten to us. O

O Thou, most holy and beloved, my Companion, my Guide upon the way,
My bright evening Star.

