**Witness to Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**

**Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy**

**For individuals:**

**Week 1: Witness to Hope**

The Lord is coming!

I am preparing my heart to receive God’s Good News.

The gospel of Mark tells us to “keep awake” for we do not know when He will come, but God’s promise is sure that Christ *will* come.

I wait in confident hope knowing that God is faithful and will strengthen me to the end.

I light the first candle, the candle of hope, celebrating the Hope that is ours in Christ, trusting that You, O God, will lead me down the pathways of faithfulness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer: God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith I pray that as a witness to hope, I may be part of what you are doing in the world even now. As I watch for Christ’s coming glory, continue to light my way. Amen.

**Week 2: Witness to Peace**

The Lord is coming!

I am preparing my heart to receive God’s Good News.

From the prophet Isaiah I hear, “Herald of good tidings, lift up your voice with strength! Lift it up, do not fear; say to the people, ‘Here is your God!’”

As I wait for the fullness of God’s promises to be realized, let me strive to be at peace within myself and with others.

I light the second candle, the candle of peace, celebrating the Peace that is ours in Christ, trusting that You, O God, will lead me down the pathways of faithfulness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer: God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith I pray that as a witness to hope and peace, I may be part of what you are doing in the world even now. As I watch for Christ’s coming glory, continue to light my way. Amen.

**Week 3: Witness to Joy**

The Lord is coming!

I am preparing my heart to receive God’s Good News.

The gospel of John assures us that what has come into being in Christ was life, “and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

We are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will rejoice in the Lord, and with my whole being exult in God.

I light the third candle, the candle of joy, celebrating the Joy that is ours in Christ, trusting that You, O God, will lead me down the pathways of faithfulness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer: God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith I pray that as a witness to hope, peace, and joy, I may be part of what you are doing in the world even now. As I watch for Christ’s coming glory, continue to light my way. Amen.

**Week 4: Witness to Love**

The Lord is coming!

I am preparing my heart to receive God’s Good News.

The gospel of Luke tells us of God’s great love revealed when and angel of the Lord came to Mary proclaiming she would bear the Son of God, Jesus. For nothing is impossible with God.

And Mary proclaimed, “Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me.”

I light the fourth candle, the candle of love, celebrating the Love that is ours in Christ, trusting that You, O God, will lead me down the pathways of faithfulness.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer: God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith I pray that as a witness to hope, peace, joy, and love, I may be part of what you are doing in the world even now. As I watch for Christ’s coming glory, continue to light my way. Amen.