



## Soon and Very Soon: Advent Candle Lighting

Keep Awake, Repent, Go and Tell, Rejoice  
(on the Matthew texts of the Revised Common Lectionary)

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### First Sunday of Advent

- One: This is the season to be ready. This is the day to keep awake.  
All: *We do not know, O God; we do not know when your goodness will be complete. But we are awake; we are waiting; we are trusting.*
- One: Keep your candles lit. Keep your hope warm.  
All: *Too long, O God, we have chased after false prophets. Too long, we have looked among ourselves for a messiah. Now we set our hearts on readiness for you.*
- One: By the light of Advent, we keep awake and wait for Emmanuel.  
*(The first Advent candle is lit.)*

### Second Sunday of Advent

- One: This is the season to repent. This is the day to confess our sins.  
All: *We confess, O God, that we are happy to name our sins but reluctant to release them, glad to aspire to righteousness but challenged to live it.*
- One: Keep your candles lit. Offer your willingness in hope.  
All: *Too long, O God, we have decried the pit of vipers but reserved our own venom for use. Too long, we have rinsed in the water but avoided the baptism of your fire.*
- One: By the light of Advent, we repent as we wait for Emmanuel.  
*(The second Advent candle is lit.)*

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

One: This is the season of seeking. This is the day for telling and sharing.

*All: We find ourselves reluctant to go out and tell, O God. We are seekers ourselves—we are inadequate vessels of your good news.*

One: Keep your candles lit. Loosen your tongue with purpose.

*All: Too long, O God, we have focused our voices on out-shouting evil, and neglected to sing of your goodness. Too long, we have hidden our light as your witnesses. Still you call us to go.*

One: By the light of Advent, we carry Emmanuel's good news into the world.  
*(The third Advent candle is lit.)*

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

One: This is the season of dreaming. This is the day for rejoicing.

*All: Can we laugh, O God, while there is so much weeping? Can we dream of what you have in store, even before it is fully realized?*

One: Keep your candles lit. Shake off the burden of fear.

*All: Too long, O God, we have been afraid. Too long, we have held back in anticipation of disappointment. Too long, we have held our breath even though you invite us into joy.*

One: By the light of Advent, we dare to rejoice in Emmanuel.  
*(The fourth Advent candle is lit.)*

### **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day**

One: This is the season of God's glory. This is the day of deliverance.

*All: Surround us with your glory, O God! Wrap us in the good news of peace for all people! Amaze our hearts to witness your presence among us!*

One: Keep your candles lit. God's glory cannot be extinguished.

*All: Now the eyes of our hearts are opened. Now the love of our hearts is unrestrained. The sign of Emmanuel is our hope and our eternal joy, the peace of our lives.*

One: By the light of Christmas, we give thanks.  
*(The Christ candle is lit.)*