

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

ADVENT WEEK 1 (NOVEMBER 28)—THE CANDLE OF HOPE

The first candle is lit.

Christ, be our light.

We light this candle for all God's people,
struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.
God, as we wait for your presence, give light, give hope.

God, fill us with hope.

Hope for a new day.

Hope that all fears will be removed.

Hope that doors of opportunity that seem locked will be opened.

Hope that broken relationships will be restored.

Hope for healing.

Hope for something more than ourselves.

Hope that damaged trust will be revived. God, fill us with hope.

ADVENT WEEK 11 (DECEMBER 5)—THE CANDLE OF PEACE

The first and second candles are lit.

Christ, be our light.

As we light this candle for all God's prophets,
confronting injustice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace.
God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope, give peace.

God, fill us with peace.

**Give us strength and courage to pursue peace, especially on behalf of all who
suffer the consequences of war, for all victims of violence, and of disasters.**

God, bless us with an abundance of peace.

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ADVENT WEEK III (DECEMBER 12)—THE CANDLE OF JOY (PINK)

The first, second, and third candles are lit.

Christ, be our light.

As we light this candle for all God's people,
we accept the joy and the challenge of being God-bearers.

We say "yes" to God's offering of the unknown.

God, as we wait for your promise, give light, hope, peace, and joy.

**God, fill us with joy on the path of life you have made known to us.
Give us the generosity of spirit to lift up those with heavy hearts,
hold them gently, and walk with them.**

God, bless us with joy.

ADVENT WEEK IV (DECEMBER 19)—THE CANDLE OF LOVE

All four candles are lit.

Christ, be our light.

As we light this candle of love for all God's people,
we remember your commandments.

You call us to love God and love our neighbors.

Come to us in this time of Advent.

May the light of your love be born anew in us.

God, fill us with love.

Love is patient, love is kind.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way. Love rejoices in the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things.

God, bless us with love.