



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

**Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)**

Today we relight the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of HOPE.

Now we light the candle for the second Sunday in Advent. This is the candle of PEACE.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus we remember that Jesus is our hope, and he is our peace.

The prophet Isaiah says:

*"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

--Isaiah 9:6-7

From the Gospel of John:

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."*

--John 14:27

Let us pray:

Gracious God, grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's coming. May our personal divisions be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and in the countries of our world. Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace; help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give us courage to follow them. Amen.

**CAROL #82** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

## PRAYER OF PRAISE

Loving God,  
we long for your peace  
and want to trust in your promises;  
we hear your call to turn toward you  
to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill  
our minds with your wisdom  
and our hearts with your peace,  
that our worship together  
may open us to the challenge  
of your dream of wholeness for all.  
In the name of the One who is coming.  
Amen.

**RESPONSE (insert)** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

## ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Shepherding God,  
guide us through this season  
of anticipation and hope.  
Comfort our troubled minds,  
and strengthen our tired bodies.  
Restore the hope this season offers,  
that we might lift our voices  
with robust energy and joy!  
Straighten the crooked paths,  
that we might walk in your ways.  
Level the rocky ground,  
that we might prepare  
for your arrival in our world,  
a world in need of peace.

(silent prayer and reflection)

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**—from Isaiah 40:1

Comfort, comfort now my people, says your God.  
Beloved, know this:  
Your sins are forgiven.  
The Lord, Emmanuel, abides with you.  
The peace announced by the angels is at hand.

**Thanks be to God!**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**HYMN #308** *O God in Whom All Life Begins*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**     Isaiah 9:2-6  
                                      Luke 1:67-79

**MESSAGE**   Pathways to Peace

**CAROL #123** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory  
now and forever. Amen.*

**SONG #314** *Christ, Be Our Light*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

