

C6245 Light of Light Litany

First Sunday of Advent – Light of Hope

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Advent is a time of self-examination.

God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.

Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.

Advent is a time of service and searching.

God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.

Today we light the first candle – the candle of hope – reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and our children's children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

Closing prayer (First Sunday)

God of light, we pray today that you will fill us with hopeful expectation, and that you will cause us to become your children of light. Help us to spread your light into the world around us. Help us to recognize our opportunities to brighten the lives of others. Help us to live each day as beacons of love filled with joy, peace, and hope. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent – Light of Peace

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.

Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.

Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.

Today we light two candles – the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This second candle reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent us peace that passes all understanding. Peace of heart and mind, because through God's grace, we were given a Savior. Because of Christ we can live our lives with a sense of calm assurance, and we can be instruments that spread that peace out into the world.

Closing prayer (Second Sunday)

God of light, we thank you for the sacrifice you made in sending your Son, and we pray today that you will fill us with a deep sense of peace. Lighten our anxious moments. Help us keep our minds focused on your love and take away our feelings of hopelessness and despair. May we remember that we are your instruments of peace and help us to spread that peace to the world around us. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent – Light of Joy

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

Lord of light, we thank you for the gift of life.

Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

Lord of light, we thank you for our friends and family.

Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

Lord of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.

Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

Lord of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.

Today we light three candles – the candle of hope, of peace, and the candle of joy. This third candle reminds us that because of our Lord, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

Closing prayer (Third Sunday)

God of light, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us, and we pray today that you will teach us to be truly joyful. Help us remember that you supply our needs and fill our lives with meaning. Fill our days with keen awareness of your presence, and fill our hearts with praise as we celebrate this joyful Advent season. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Light of Love

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time to let go of anger and fear.

God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.

Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.

Advent is a time to share with those in need.

God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.

Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.

Today, we light four candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy, and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ’s eternal love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God *is* love, and because we were created in God’s image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God’s love here on earth. Love is patient and kind and powerful, and we all share the calling to go into the world and spread that love to others.

Closing prayer (Fourth Sunday)

God of love, we open our hearts to you today and ask that you fill us with the power of your love. Take away our bitterness, greed, and jealousy. Remind us that we are brothers and sisters, all sharing the wonderful gift of life. Help us treat others with respect and love, and help us care for the world you have given us with loving hearts and gentle hands. Amen.

Christmas Eve – The Light of Light

Responsive Litany

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.

Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Tonight we light all five candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy, love, and finally, the Christ Candle, celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. The candle of hope reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. The candle of peace reminds us that peace will one day reign. The candle of joy is a reminder that we have been given eternal life and have no reason to be fearful. And the candle of love represents God’s redeeming love for us, brought to earth in the form of a tiny child.

Closing prayer - (Christmas Eve)

God of light, tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank you for this, the most precious of Christmas gifts, and we ask that you keep the hope, peace, joy and love of this season in our hearts, now and throughout the coming year. Emmanuel – God is with us, now and forevermore. Amen.
