

C5913 Where the Promise Shines Litany

First Sunday – The Promise of Hope

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every hurt to be healed.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every tear to be dried.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every injustice to be made right.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We celebrate God's promises and long for those yet to unfold.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that even in the midst of darkness, the light of hope shines. Jesus Christ is the promised One of God, the light of the world. May this light of hope illuminate our hearts throughout this Advent season.

Closing prayer (First Sunday)

Gracious God, fill our hearts this day with the thrill of hope that is found in each of your promises. Like the people of old, we who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Ignite our faith and light our path. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Second Sunday – The Promise of Peace

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is division, we long for unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is hostility, we long for resolution.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Where there is separation, we long for reunion.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** represents the everlasting hope that has touched our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. In a world of division, brokenness and uncertainty, the **second candle** summons our hearts to the One called Prince of Peace. As the light shines, may we embrace and extend the peace of Christ in all that we do and say.

Closing prayer (Second Sunday)

Gracious God, you are the Prince of Peace who lives and reigns forever. As we journey together, we pray you would still our fears, heal our wounds and fill our spirits. Shine forth your perfect peace in our unsettled world throughout this Advent season. Amen.

Third Sunday – The Promise of Joy

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In the silence, we long for a comforting word.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.

Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Today we light three candles. The **first candle** radiates the hope given through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to embrace and extend Christ's peace to an unsettled world. The **third candle** extends the promise of joy to restless souls. Though darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true joy that sustains a weary people.

Closing prayer (Third Sunday)

Gracious Lord, our joy is found in you, for not only did you enter into this world, but you became the hope of the world. From the cradle to the cross, you invite us to share in your victory. This is the fountain from which our joy flows. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Fourth Sunday – The Promise of Love

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the silence to be broken,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope granting strength to the weary. The **second candle** is the light of peace that surpasses our understanding. The **third candle** is the light of joy that touches the depths of our soul. The **fourth candle** reminds us of the light of God's love poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Closing prayer (Fourth Sunday)

God of grace, you so loved the world that you gave your one and only Son to all who believe. Jesus is the true gift of Advent, shining forth your glory and grace. As the light has grown brighter through the season, we pray that you would shine forth the promise of your hope, peace, joy and love within our lives and within our world. Amen.

Christmas Eve – The Promise of Arrival

Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn king.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Tonight we light all the candles. The **first candle** ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The **second candle** shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world. The **third candle** expresses the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The **fourth candle** shines with grace and new life in God's unconditional love. Tonight, we light the **Christ candle** in celebration of our Messiah's birth. As God's promises continue to shine, we echo the words shared through the ages – Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Closing prayer (Christmas Eve)

Gracious God, in the wonder of this night we hear the Christmas proclamation. The cry of "Come, O Come, Emmanuel," has become "Joy to the World!" Like the shepherds on that starry night when in a moment of majestic humility, may we now come to worship Christ the newborn king. Amen.