

C6162 Love's Pure Light Litany

First Sunday of Advent – Hope for God's Presence

Responsive Litany

In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we search God's truth.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

This morning, we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Closing prayer (First Sunday)

Gracious God, as we begin our Advent journey we thank you for the gift of your Son, and for sending hope into a world filled with dread. Help us remember that we are your people, and because of your promises we have every reason to be hopeful. Take away our doubt and fear, and remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of hope. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent – Hope for God's Peace

Responsive Litany

In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

This morning we light two candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that is only through trust in God's word and his promises that we can find our own inner peace. We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace who taught us that through the simple acts of love and forgiveness peace is spread throughout the world.

Closing prayer (Second Sunday)

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we thank you for sending the Prince of Peace into a world filled with unrest and strife. We ask that you quiet our restless hearts and instill in each of us the calm assurance that you are in control so we need not worry. Give us the tools we need to serve as you would have us serve, and make us willing instruments of your peace. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent – Hope for God’s Joy

Responsive Litany

In this season of Advent, we celebrate with joyful hearts.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We count our blessings, and give thanks for God’s goodness and grace.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We strive to search for the good in our neighbors near and far.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We remember that God has promised us full and joyful lives.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

This morning, we light three candles – the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ’s birth as “Good news, of great joy, to all people.” We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

Closing prayer (Third Sunday)

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we ask that you open our eyes to the beauty and goodness around us, and fill our hearts with grateful joy. Remind us that Christ is our light and the source of all joy, and that we are here to serve you and to spread that joy to others. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Hope for God’s Love

Responsive Litany

During Advent we see God’s love for us embodied in our Savior’s birth.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love

Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love

Advent reminds us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

This morning, we light four candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today's candle – love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world, he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate God's gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves us.

Closing prayer (Fourth Sunday)

Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we are reminded that "Love came down at Christmas – love amazing, love divine." You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it's up to us to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. Amen.

Christmas Eve – The Light of Christ

Responsive Litany

For those walking in darkness, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting hope

For those living in fear and dread, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting peace

For those living in hopelessness and despair, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting joy

For those living in loneliness, a new light has dawned.

Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.

Tonight, we light all the candles as we celebrate the birth of Christ. The candles of hope, peace, love, and joy all remind us that Christ is our light and the source of eternal hope, everlasting peace, boundless love, and endless joy. The Christ candle reminds us that God's perfect gift was sent to us that we might have life abundant and everlasting. Joy to the world and peace on earth. Let us worship Christ, the newborn King.

Closing prayer - (Christmas Eve)

Gracious God, tonight as we gather together to conclude our Advent journey, we celebrate that a new light has dawned. A child is born and that child is our light and the source of our joy. He brings hope into the world, and the promise of peace on earth. He is love incarnate, love divine, and we thank you dear Lord for this, the most perfect gift imaginable. Joy to the world! Christ is born! Amen.
