

Advent & Christmas ROCC Equipping Class (2 of 3)

Sample Advent Candle Lighting Services

First Sunday of Advent: A time of anticipation and longing for Jesus' coming.

Read: James 5:7-8

Lighting the first candle: "Why do we light this candle today?"

Respond: "We light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope, to remind us of the hope that the people of Israel had for the coming of the Messiah."

Read: Isaiah 7:14 and Jeremiah 33:14-16

Sing: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Pray: God of hope, as we begin Advent, we are tempted to get carried away with gift buying, parties, and decorating. Help us to remember daily that You are the reason for our preparations. Center our hearts on You, the Hope of the world. Jesus, in Your Holy name we pray. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent: A time of faith preparation for the coming of Christ.

Read: 1Thessalonians 5:19-23

Lighting two candles: "Why do we light this second candle today?"

Respond: "We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Faith, to remind us of the faith that is strengthened by the coming Messiah, our Savior and King."

Read: Zechariah 6:12-13 and Isaiah 11:1-5

Sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Pray: God of mercy, creator and sustainer of our faith, strengthen our faith each new day of this season. Let the words of your Word fill our minds and hearts. Help us to trust in your plan for our lives and our world. Let us remain faithful as we wait for your return. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent: A time of rejoicing in anticipation of Christmas.

Read: Isaiah 35:1-2, 10

Lighting three candles: “Why do we light this third candle today?”

Respond: “We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy, to remind us of the joy the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born.”

Read: Philippians 4:4-5 and Luke 1:26-3

Sing: “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

Pray: God we know that some days, we do not act like there is anything to celebrate. Turn our eyes upward and outward, focusing not on ourselves, but on you! Fill our hearts with Joy we pray. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: The time to know the peace given to us in the greatest gift from God, God’s Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Read: 1Thessalonians 5:19-23

Lighting four candles: Why do we light this fourth candle today?”

Respond: “We light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Peace, to remind us of the peace that enters our lives when we experience the presence of Jesus Christ.”

Read: Psalm 85:8-13 and Isaiah 40:1-11

Sing: “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”

Pray: God of grace, sometimes our lives and actions are anything but peaceful. Help us to quiet our minds, mouths, and bodies, to be still and invite in the peace that can only come through You. Guide us in all that we say and do, that we may reflect Your love and peace. Amen.

Christmas Eve of Advent: Our waiting is nearly over. Each week we lit one more candle representing the ever-brightening path that leads us closer to the star under which the Christ Child lay.

Read: Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 9:2-7

Lighting five candles: Why do we light this fifth and final candle tonight?

Respond: “We light the fifth candle, the Christ Candle because Jesus Christ, the true light of the world has come. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life!” (John 8:12) “

Read: Luke 2:1-20

Sing: “Silent Night”

Pray: “O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!” (Phillips Brooks, 1867)