

Advent Candle Lighting Reflections at Home

During Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ. He is coming to the manger in Bethlehem on Christmas morning, he is coming again when the world becomes heaven on earth, and he is coming to us each in every moment. We open our hearts wide during Advent, and we remember what his coming means. It means increasing hope, peace, joy and love. So during Advent we light candles to help us think about and feel those good things, and then on Christmas Eve we light the white candle to celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world.

A Light Shines In HOPE!

Advent means the coming or approach of something. We begin Advent with hope. Hope is about things to come, but also about the past. We have hope that the Christ child will be born in our hearts this year because he has been born there in the past. We have hope that the light will shine in the darkness within and around us because we have felt the light shining in the darkness before. We light this candle to proclaim our faith in the coming of the light of God into the world. With the Advent of this light comes hope. Today let us hope that by welcoming Christ into our lives we will become like candles ourselves, full of his light, helping to bring peace, love and joy to others.

“For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.” Isaiah 60:2

A Light Shines In PEACE!

People of all times and places have longed for peace in the heart and home and world. On this Sunday of Advent we celebrate that the way of Jesus Christ is a way that leads to peace. It leads to peace in the heart by bringing us forgiveness and teaching us to trust and connecting us to God. It leads to peace in the home and world by helping us be forgiving, compassionate and kind people. Jesus Christ is known by many names. One of them is The Prince of Peace. He is also called Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” And he is called the light of the world. We light this candle to proclaim our faith in the coming of Christ’s light into the world. With Christ’s advent comes peace, a peace we can find in our hearts. It is a light that shines in the darkness that the darkness does not overcome.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

A Light Shines In JOY!

Advent joy is not just about getting gifts that make us happy, it is deeper, stronger and longer lasting. It can be with us always, in every situation, because Advent joy comes through our loving connection to God and one another. Jesus Christ came to give us that joy. He teaches us the way of a love that abides through grief or pain or loss and does not let anything stop it. We light this candle to proclaim our faith in the coming of Christ’s light into the world. With Christ’s Advent comes joy, a joy that can be ours at

Christmas or any time that we open our hearts to love, even in the midst of the hardest struggle or darkest night. Christ's joy is a light that shines in the darkness that the darkness does not overcome.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Luke 2:8-10

A Light Shines In LOVE!

The light of Christ is a light of love. Wherever love's light shines, the gloom lifts and there is a warm glow. We light this candle to proclaim our faith in the coming of Christ's light into the world. With Christ's Advent come three forms of love: God's love of us; our love of God; and God's love and ours for all people and all creation. This Advent we ask that we may be as generous-hearted as Jesus was, who gave love to all people: old and young, healthy and sick, rich and poor, neighbors and enemies. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us find ways to shine the light of love especially on those who need it most in this darkest time of the year. Christ's love is a light that shines in the darkness that the darkness does not overcome—a light that shines in us when we love.

"God is light....Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light....We know love by this, that [Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help...? God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.... We love because God first loved us....The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also." excerpts from I John

A Light Shines In CHRIST!

Jesus Christ is the gift that leads to all the other Advent gifts. So as we light the Christ candle we think about what Christ's coming brings to each one of us, the gifts we have received in the past and the gifts we long for now. What gifts of hope, peace, joy and love have you received in the past year? What do you want and need now? How could Christ help give them to you? How could you help give them to others, including those with you right now?

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 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 1:1-5