



FOURTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ADVENT LITANY

Bishop John F. White, Presiding Prelate
Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White, Episcopal Supervisor

Rev. Christal L. Bell, Christian Education Director

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Musician to play very softly Hymn #364: "My Hope Is Built"

READER #1

Advent is a Christian Observance in recognition of the "Preparation of the coming of the Messiah". This is done during the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The altar is in Purple, representing Advent, Royalty or the coming of royalty. Each Sunday presents a different characteristic of Christ's presence on earth or LOGOS, which means the word becoming flesh.

The First Sunday of Advent is: "HOPE"

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty GOD, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

Isaiah 9:6-7a

(Pause as the Hope Candle is lit)

READER #2

Jesus taught us that:

'You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by people.'

Matthew 5:13

Jesus also said:

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Creator in heaven."Matthew 5:14-16

Pastoral Prayer for HOPE

Pastor: Now, let us stand and sing Hymn# 364 "My Hope Is Built"

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Musician to play very softly Hymn# 121 "O Holy Night

READER #1

The first Sunday of Advent was HOPE, as the Hope candle is lit, let us remember that we as children of the light must let our light shine because we represent:

HOPE FOR OTHERS
and
HOPE FOR THE WORLD.

(Pause as the HOPE Candle is lit)

READER #2

The second Sunday of advent is LOVE:

The Christ child represents the Love that GOD has for each and every one of us. Not just any kind of Love, but AGAPE which is GOD's unconditional love.

John 3:16 states *"For GOD so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*

So, as the second candle of Advent is lit, may this candle signify our love for all as we embrace the AGAPE that God gives to us.

(Pause as the LOVE Candle is lit) "

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." I Corinthians 13:4-8;13

Pastoral Prayer

As we reflect on the birth of Christ, let us all be reminded that his birth represents love for all, and his ministry represents GOD's love for the world. Let us also be reminded that as his disciples, we, the children of faith represent love for the world. Let us remember that holy night that LOVE came to dwell among us.

Let stand as we sing Hymn# 121 "O Holy Night"

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Musician to play very softly Hymn# 120 "Joy To The World"

READER #1

The first Sunday of Advent was HOPE. We learned that we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and the hope for all humankind.

(Pause as the HOPE Candle is lit)

READER #2

The second Sunday of Advent was LOVE
We learned that LOVE has many meanings:

LOVE of Self

LOVE of Family

LOVE of a Spouse

LOVE of People

But the greatest Love is Agape, which is a divine unconditional love that is Love from GOD which should be shared by and with us all.

(Pause as the LOVE Candle is lit)

READER #3

This Third Sunday of Advent is Joy:

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising GOD and saying, Glory to GOD in the highest

And on earth, peace to all whom his favor rests." Luke 2:8-14

As we light the fourth candle, our candle of JOY, let us be GOD's vessels to bring JOY.

(Pause as the JOY Candle is lit)

Pastoral Prayer for JOY

Let stand as we sing Hymn #120 "Joy To The World"

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Musician to play very softly "Let There Be Peace On Earth"

READER #1

The first Sunday of Advent was HOPE. We learned that we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and the hope for all humankind.

(Pause as the HOPE Candle is lit)

READER #2

The second Sunday of Advent was LOVE

We learned that GOD has a special love for each and every one of us. Not just any kind of Love, but AGAPE which is GOD's unconditional love. As Christians, we are to love as GOD loves, unconditionally.

(Pause as the LOVE Candle is lit)

READER #3

This Third Sunday of Advent was Joy:

We learned that the Joy of Jesus the Christ should always abide in us. Let us welcome LOGOS, the world becoming flesh, and dwelling within us.

(Pause as the JOY Candle is lit)

READER #4

The fourth Sunday of Advent is Peace

When we think of peace, we think of calm, pleasantness or quiet. But, there is a very special Hebrew word translated called Shalom. This peace, however, does not just mean absence of trouble, or quiet. This peace represents prosperity, and divine favor, independent of our circumstances.

Let us stand as the fourth candle, our PEACE CANDLE, is lit.

Let our walk, our talk, our thoughts, promote Shalom PEACE TO ALL PEOPLE

(Pause as the PEACE Candle is lit)

Pastoral Prayer for PEACE

Let us sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

CHRISTMAS DAY

Musician to play very softly Hymn #112 "Silent Night"

READER #1

The first Sunday of Advent was HOPE. We learned that Christ represents the hope for the world. Through each and every one of us, Christ Ambassadors, we represent hope for all persons we come in contact with. "For we are the only Christ someone may see."

(Pause as the HOPE Candle is lit)

READER #2

The second Sunday of Advent was LOVE
We learned that Christ represents the Love that GOD has for each and every one of us. Not just any kind of Love, but AGAPE, which is GOD's unconditional love.

(Pause as the LOVE Candle is lit)

READER #3

This Third Sunday of Advent was Joy:
We learned that we are to be joyful knowing that GOD has not forgotten us and that God has made provisions for our short comings by providing us a personal Savior in Jesus.

(Pause as the JOY Candle is lit)

READER #4

The fourth Sunday of Advent is Peace
We learned that Christ represents SHALOM (PEACE). Not just any peace, but the peace that goes beyond our surroundings and circumstances.

(Pause as the PEACE Candle is lit)

CHRISTMAS DAY

READER# 5:

Now we come to Christmas Morning, when we celebrate thanksgiving to GOD for the Christ Child:

“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means GOD with us. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

As we light the Christ Candle, let us stand and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ

(Pause as the “C H R I S T” Candle, is lit)

Pastoral CHRISTmas Prayer

Let Us Now Stand and sing Hymn # 120: “Jesus the Light of the World



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