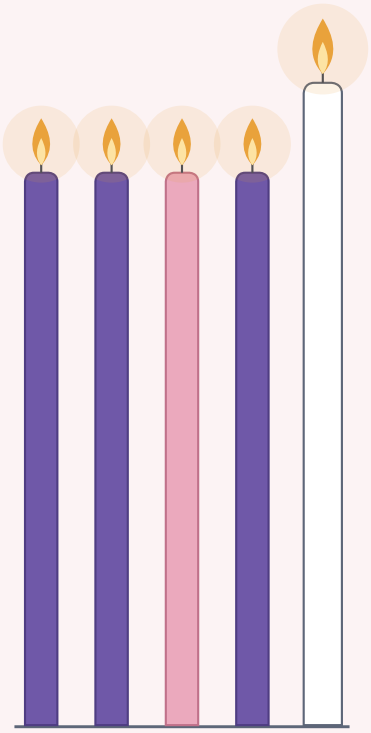
CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Advent candle readings

A reading, a response and a prayer for each Sunday of Advent and for Christmas Eve, 2026.



IN THIS ORDER

First Sunday of Advent: the candle of hope *Sunday, November 29, 2026* 2

Second Sunday of Advent: the candle of peace *Sunday, December 6, 2026* 3

Third Sunday of Advent: the candle of joy *Sunday, December 13, 2026* 4

Fourth Sunday of Advent: the candle of love *Sunday, December 20, 2026* 5

Christmas Eve: the Christ candle *Thursday, December 24, 2026* 6

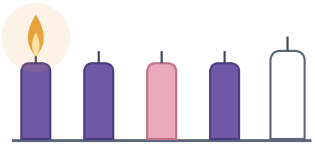
The leader reads the lines in regular type. The people answer with the lines in bold. Instructions are in red italic and are not read aloud.

Scripture from the Berean Standard Bible, dedicated to the public domain. Responses and prayers by Church Posting. Any church may copy them.

churchposting.com/resources/worship/advent-candle-readings/

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent: the candle of hope



The reader comes to the wreath. Three candles are purple, one is pink, and the white Christ candle stands in the center.

READ ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

> 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned. 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from that time and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.

LEADER The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

PEOPLE **On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned.**

LEADER God promised a Son who would reign on the throne of David forever.

PEOPLE **God keeps his word, and we wait for Christ with hope.**

Light the first purple candle.

ALL PRAY **Lord Jesus, you are the light the prophets saw from far off. Keep us watching for you this month, and keep us ready for the day you come again. Amen.**

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Why do we light a candle today?**

A PARENT SAYS God promised to send a light into a dark world, and he kept his promise when Jesus was born.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026

Second Sunday of Advent: the candle of peace



READ MICAH 5:2a, 4-5a

> [2]But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come forth for Me One to be ruler over Israel. [4]He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD His God. And they will dwell securely, for then His greatness will extend to the ends of the earth. [5]And He will be our peace.

LEADER Bethlehem was small among the clans of Judah.

PEOPLE **Out of Bethlehem came the ruler God promised.**

LEADER He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD.

PEOPLE **And He will be our peace.**

Light the first candle, then the second purple candle.

ALL PRAY **Prince of Peace, you made peace between God and sinners by the blood of your cross. Quiet our hearts and our homes this week, and make us people who make peace. Amen.**

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Why is this the candle of peace?**

A PARENT SAYS Jesus came to bring us back to God, and he teaches us to make peace with each other.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026

Third Sunday of Advent: the candle of joy



READ LUKE 2:8-14

> 8 And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over
> their flocks by night. 9 Just then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the
> glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel
> said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy
> that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a Savior has been born
> to you. He is Christ the Lord! 12 And this will be a sign to you: You will find a
> baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there
> appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God
> and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom
> His favor rests!”

LEADER Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

PEOPLE **Today in the city of David a Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord!**

LEADER Glory to God in the highest,

PEOPLE **and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests!**

Light the first two candles, then the pink candle.

ALL PRAY **Father, give us the joy the shepherds had, and send us out like them to tell what we have heard and seen. Amen.**

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Why is this candle pink?**

A PARENT SAYS It marks the Sunday of joy. Christmas is close, and the angel said the good news is for all the people, so it is for us.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Advent: the candle of love



READ 1 JOHN 4:9-10

> 9 This is how God's love was revealed among us: God sent His one and only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. 10 And love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

LEADER This is how God's love was revealed among us:

PEOPLE **God sent His one and only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him.**

LEADER God loved us first.

PEOPLE **He sent His Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Light the first three candles, then the fourth purple candle.

ALL PRAY **Father, thank you for loving us before we ever loved you. Teach us to love each other the way you have loved us in Jesus. Amen.**

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Why do we light a candle for love?**

A PARENT SAYS God loved us first and gave us his Son, the best gift anyone has ever given.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2026

Christmas Eve: the Christ candle



READ JOHN 1:1-5, 14

> [1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2]He was with God in the beginning. [3]Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made. [4]In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. [5]The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. [14]The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

LEADER In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

PEOPLE **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

LEADER The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.

PEOPLE **We have seen His glory, full of grace and truth.**

Light the four candles, then the white Christ candle in the center.

ALL **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests!**

ALL PRAY **Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to us. You came once to Bethlehem, and you will come again in glory. Keep us faithful until that day. Amen.**

AT HOME WITH CHILDREN

A CHILD ASKS **Why is the middle candle white?**

A PARENT SAYS It is the Christ candle. We light it for Jesus, the light of the world, because the one we waited for has come.