ADVENT

BEHOLD! MY SERVANT

ISAIAH'S SERVANT SONG

2026 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

THIS ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BELONGS TO

_____

You'll use these items throughout our Advent experience as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

Scan the QR codes to purchase your own wreath & candles.





Wreath

Candles

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

This year marks 38 years since my dad first introduced this Advent tradition to our family. Four generations of our family will celebrate together this year. We have many traditions in our family, but our kids still say Advent is their favorite.

We hope this Advent Guide will bless your family as much as it blesses ours. We hope it will make Christ the center of this Christmas and help your friends and family experience *shalom shalom*—perfect peace!

Pastor Garrett Lahey
Discipleship Associate Director

HOW TO USE THIS ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent is traditionally celebrated on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Eve and on Christmas Eve itself. It's a wonderful way to create holy anticipation for Christmas! Everything about the observance is meant to create feelings of expectation.

While we encourage you to make your own Advent traditions, here are a few we recommend:

1. **Set a mood:** On Sunday evening, turn down the house lights, turn on some Christmas lights and play soft Christmas music. Gather around in a family room and sit close together. Invite other friends and families to join you.
2. **Read the appropriate night's Advent devotional:** Read the Advent story for the evening with a voice of quiet excitement, expectation, and wonder. Consider taking turns reading various parts. Each night has two versions, one for all-adult settings and one for settings that include young children (preschool or younger—see second half of this guide). Choose the one that is best for your family. Let children read if they are able! Some families hold two Advents, one for squirmy little ones, and one more solemn after the littles are off to bed.
3. **Light the appropriate candle for the night, plus all the previous candles:** On November 22nd you will only light one candle, the next week you will light two, etc. By Christmas Eve all five candles will be lit!

4. **Read the Reflection and Closing Prayer:** Adjourn to a special treat. Our family likes sparkling fruit juice, German cookies, and lemon bars. You can have any treat you like. It's most fun if the treats are something you only have at Advent time!
5. **Most importantly, RELAX!**—especially if you have young children. They will fidget, play, talk, mess with the candles, fight over who gets to blow them out, etc. Rest assured, this tradition has meaning. My brother and I goofed off all of our teen years during Advent. My dad never scolded us. Today we celebrate it with our children as followers of Jesus Christ. (And when my children fight over blowing out the candles, Dad smiles a deeply satisfied smile.)

Use the QR codes on page 4 or the back of the devotional to purchase your own wreath & candles!



NOVEMBER 22, 2026

1ST ADVENT CANDLE—HOPE!

New Things I Declare to You!



No candles are lit as we begin.

ISAIAH 42:1-9

1 "Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations.

2 He will not shout or raise his voice in public.

3 He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged.

4 He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth. Even distant lands beyond the sea will wait for his instruction."

5 God, the Lord, created the heavens and stretched them out. He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath to everyone, life to everyone who walks the earth. And it is he who says,

6 "I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide the nations.

7 You will open the eyes of the blind. You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons.

8 "I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols.

9 Everything I prophesied has come true, and now I will prophesy again. I will tell you the future before it happens."

Reflection

When this prophecy was written, the people of Israel were living as captives under the Babylonians. God had already said He would defeat the Babylonians and bring them home. What they didn't know was that God also intended to bring them back to Himself.

We often want God to rescue us from pain, disappointment, and hardship; but we forget that real peace requires something else. We must also come back to God.

Even less often still do we accept that such homecomings involve suffering. We must let ourselves be transformed completely. We must put aside sin and focus exclusively on the things of God. This we will not do. We want the rescue from evil, but we don't always want to come home, and stay home, with a good God.

Fortunately for us, God knows how to comfort the weary, and He has made a way. It is the suffering Servant of God—Jesus. Jesus takes on the suffering we wouldn't (and *couldn't*, even if we did want to—which we don't).

This second Servant Song, written 700 years before Jesus, lays it all out. Sin leads to suffering, but Jesus, the Suffering Servant, takes on that suffering for us.

Isaiah says the Servant will be beaten and spat upon. Mark 14:65 says, "Then some of them began to spit at [Jesus], and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists."

Isaiah says the Servant will set His face like stone, determined to suffer to bring us back to God. Luke 9:51 says, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem."

Isaiah says the Suffering Servant will not deserve this treatment. He asks, "Where are the accusers? Who dares bring charges?" Romans

8:33-34 says, "Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us."

Did you see what happened in those last verses? Paul says Jesus has passed on His innocence to us! By suffering for us, He has bought for us a not-guilty verdict!

This doesn't seem fair, and it isn't, but it's the only way. We simply don't have what it takes to save ourselves. This is why Isaiah ends his wonderful Servant Song with a grave warning: "But watch out, you who live in your own light and warm yourselves by your own fires. This is the reward you will receive from me: You will soon fall down in great torment."

Let's live in God's light instead!

Light the Candle: Purple

Our first candle stands for HOPE. If God was able to bring His servant to us after 700 years, He can surely complete his mission now! God's faithfulness to all His past promises is the foundation for our hope in His faithfulness to come.

Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question: These last few years, what *hopes* have God fulfilled in your life?

Closing Prayer

Lord, let your blessing come upon us in the light of this first candle.

May we look to its light, your future promises and past faithfulness, for our hope. Amen.




NOVEMBER 29, 2026

2ND ADVENT CANDLE—PEACE!

I Did Not Hide My Face




Relight the candle of
Hope (purple)
before we begin.

ISAIAH 50:4-11

4 The Sovereign Lord has given me his words of wisdom, so that I know how to comfort the weary. Morning by morning he wakens me and opens my understanding to his will.

5 The Sovereign Lord has spoken to me, and I have listened. I have not rebelled or turned away.

6 I offered my back to those who beat me and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.

I did not hide my face from mockery and spitting.

7 Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do his will. And I know that I will not be put to shame.

8 He who gives me justice is near. Who will dare to bring charges against me now?

Where are my accusers? Let them appear!

9 See, the Sovereign Lord is on my side! Who will declare me guilty? All my enemies will be destroyed like old clothes that have been eaten by moths!

10 Who among you fears the Lord and obeys his servant? If you are walking in darkness, without a ray of light, trust in the Lord and rely on your God.

11 But watch out, you who live in your own light and warm yourselves by your own fires. This is the reward you will receive from me: You will soon fall down in great torment.

Reflection

Good Bible teachers are always warning us, "don't think of prophecy as only predicting the future. As much as 95% of Biblical prophecy is proclaiming God's word and God's will, not his future actions." Well, hold on everyone, because tonight comes from the 5%!

When the prophet Isaiah penned the words we just read (somewhere around 745–701 B.C.), the nation of Israel was suffering. Their nation was divided in two, both halves ruled by cruel and wicked kings. The entire region was controlled by the brutal Assyrian Empire. Through Isaiah, God spoke to the nation of Israel—reminding them they were meant to be his servant, a light to all the world; but instead they were blind, deaf, and helpless (Isaiah 42:19).

Even so, God promises to rescue them (Isaiah 41:10). And, to prove His power, God announces how He will do it ahead of time. Then comes the passage we just read. It says another servant is coming.

This servant will please God and have the Spirit of God upon Him. When Jesus is baptized in Matthew 3:17, God uses very similar words to say He is pleased with Jesus. When Jesus begins His ministry in Luke 4:18, Jesus reads a very similar verse from Isaiah to say the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him.

The servant God announces will bring justice to all nations; He will not be showy, but humble; He will be gentle with those who are weak; He will open the eyes of the blind and set captive free from prison! He will be a light to all nations, fulfilling one of the first promises made in the Bible in Genesis 22:18. And the passage, called the First Servant Song, ends this way: "I will tell you the future before it happens." Jesus has

done, and will continue to do, all these things!

Light the Candle: a Second Purple

Our second candle stands for PEACE. While we want peace from our circumstances, what we need is peace with God. It's the only peace that lasts. It's the one peace from which every other peace comes.

And this peace comes only from the light of Christ. So, stare into this second candle and let Jesus bring you home.

Isaiah 50:10 says, "Who among you fears the Lord and obeys his servant? If you are walking in darkness, without a ray of light, trust in the Lord and rely on your God."

Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question: These last few years, what peace has God given you?

Closing Prayer

Lord, let your blessing come upon us in the light of this second candle.

May we look to its light, your suffering, which has brought us peace.



DECEMBER 6, 2026

3RD ADVENT CANDLE—JOY!

I Will Make You a Light!



Relight the candles of
Hope & Peace (2 purples)
before we begin.

ISAIAH 49:1–13

1 Listen to me, all you in
distant lands! Pay attention,
you who are far away!
The Lord called me before my
birth; from within the womb
he called me by name.
2 He made my words of
judgment as sharp as a sword.
He has hidden me in the
shadow of his hand. I am like
a sharp arrow in his quiver.
3 He said to me, "You are my
servant, Israel, and you will
bring me glory."
4 I replied, "But my work
seems so useless! I have spent
my strength for nothing and
to no purpose. Yet I leave it all
in the Lord's hand; I will trust
God for my reward."
5 And now the Lord speaks—
the one who formed me in
my mother's womb to be his
servant, who commissioned
me to bring Israel back to him.
The Lord has honored me,
and my God has given me
strength.
6 He says, "You will do more
than restore the people of
Israel to me. I will make you a
light to the Gentiles, and you
will bring my salvation to the
ends of the earth."
7 The Lord, the Redeemer and
Holy One of Israel, says to
the one who is despised and
rejected by the nations, to
the one who is the servant
of rulers: "Kings will stand
at attention when you pass
by. Princes will also bow
low because of the Lord, the
faithful one, the Holy One of
Israel, who has chosen you."
8 This is what the Lord says:
"At just the right time, I will
respond to you. On the day of
salvation I will help you.

I will protect you and give you to the people as my covenant with them. Through you I will reestablish the land of Israel and assign it to its own people again.

9 I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out in freedom,' and to those in darkness, 'Come into the light.' They will be my sheep, grazing in green pastures and on hills that were previously bare.

10 They will neither hunger nor thirst. The searing sun will not reach them anymore. For the Lord in his mercy will lead them; he will lead them beside cool waters.

11 And I will make my mountains into level paths for them. The highways will be raised above the valleys.

12 See, my people will return from far away, from lands to the north and west, and from as far south as Egypt."

13 Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on them in their suffering.

Reflection

Stories of joy often begin with a tragedy. Before the joy of finding something lost or repairing something broken comes a tragedy—something valuable was lost or broken.

In the prophet Isaiah, there has been a double tragedy. Not only have the people of Isaiah fallen captive to Babylon, but it was because of their sins against God that He allowed them to be taken captive.

In the chapters leading up to tonight's scripture, God promises to rescue Israel from Babylon. But what about the sins that got them there in the first place? While their freedom is now sure, what can be done about their spiritual separation from God?

It's here that a third Servant Song enters the prophecy of before he was born! Whereas the original servant of God was supposed to be the entire nation of Israel, this new servant would be used to bring Israel back to God. But that's not all. God is so excited about this new Servant, He has decided to use Him to fulfill one of His oldest promises—to send a light to all nations, to send salvation to all the earth!

This prophecy says He will be despised by people at first, but in the end, kings and princes will bow down to Him. He will serve as the sign of a new covenant for the whole world. He will call people into the light. And all the earth will sing for Joy because of the salvation He brings!

While the identity of the Servant in Isaiah was a mystery for 700 years, it is no mystery today. He is Jesus, the Christ and the Lord.

When Jesus was brought to the temple as a baby, an old man named Simeon took one look at Jesus and said, "I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to

reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

As the Apostle Paul went about preaching Jesus he would say, "I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."

Even the Hebrew word for salvation is *Yeshuah*, which is the way Mary and Joseph would have pronounced their son's name. In English we pronounce it *Jesus*.

The prophecy given in a time of tragedy ends with a song of pure joy!

Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on them in their suffering.

And tonight, we share this joy, for we live in the time of the Messiah, the Savior, Jesus.

Light the Candle: Rose

Our third candle stands for JOY. While our story may begin in tragedy, we have God's promise—it will end in joy.

And if we're honest, we have both lived in seasons of tragedy before and seen those seasons later give way to God's joy.

In faith then, let us celebrate tonight with joy the sure promises of God to come.

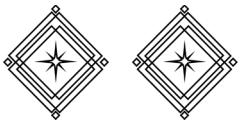
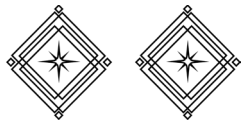
Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question: These last few years, what has given you great joy?

Closing Prayer

Lord, let your blessing come upon us in the light of this third candle.

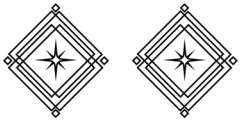
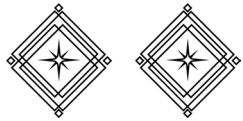
May we look to its light, your salvation, which has brought us joy.

DECEMBER 13, 2026

4TH ADVENT CANDLE—LOVE!

He was Whipped So We Could be Healed

Relight the candles of
Hope, Peace, & Joy (2 purples, 1 rose)
before we begin.

ISAIAH 52:13—53:12

13 See, my servant will prosper; he will be highly exalted.

14 But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.

15 And he will startle many nations. Kings will stand speechless in his presence.
For they will see what they had not been told; they will understand what they had not heard about.

53 Who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?

2 My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground.
There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.

3 He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

7 He was oppressed and
treated harshly, yet he never
said a word. He was led like
a lamb to the slaughter. And
as a sheep is silent before the
shearers, he did not open his
mouth.
8 Unjustly condemned, he was
led away. No one cared that
he died without descendants,
that his life was cut short in
midstream. But he was struck
down for the rebellion of my
people.
9 He had done no wrong and
had never deceived anyone.
But he was buried like a
criminal; he was put in a rich
man's grave.
10 But it was the Lord's good
plan to crush him and cause
him grief. Yet when his life is
made an offering for sin, he
will have many descendants.
He will enjoy a long life, and
the Lord's good plan will
prosper in his hands.
11 When he sees all that is
accomplished by his anguish,
he will be satisfied. And
because of his experience,
my righteous servant will
make it possible for many to
be counted righteous, for he
will bear all their sins.
12 I will give him the honors of
a victorious soldier, because
he exposed himself to death.
He was counted among the
rebels. He bore the sins of
many and interceded for
rebels.

Reflection

This is the most startling prophecy in the Bible. Seven hundred years before Jesus, the ministry of Christ is laid out in vivid detail.

For past Advent reflections, we requoted lines of Isaiah and showed them fulfilled in the New Testament. If we tried to do this for the Fourth and Final Servant Song, we'd fill up an entire book. For literally ever single line there are multiple references (sometimes half a dozen or more) in the Gospels, Letters, and the Revelation. With Christmas only a few days away, we haven't time for that! So, what can we do on this fourth Advent? We can remember the core of the core of the CORE of the Gospel.

The Gospel (another name for The Good News) is very big indeed. The Good News includes a lot of things, but all of them trace the root of their root back to this: God has set us free. What has God set us free from? The power and penalty of sin. And what is the power and the penalty of sin? It is death. And how has He done this? God has set us free from the power and penalty of sin by paying for it Himself, by giving His Son, Jesus, on the cross.

And why? Why has God

done this? Because we deserve it? No. Because He owed it to us? Certainly not. God has done this because He loves us.

But why does God love us? And here we land on bedrock. God loves us simply because He loves us. There is no further "why". And that love is the good news that changes everything.

Most of us believe, more or less, that God loves us. But when we truly understand Jesus on the cross, we don't think God loves us—we *know* God loves us.

And that's why tonight we celebrate the love of God who sent His son into the world.

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. (Isaiah 53:10)

Light the Candle: Purple

Our fourth candle stands for LOVE. There is no greater display of the love of God than His coming to us in-person. In the giving of His son, He is giving us something priceless, so we might know how much He loves us.

Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question: These last few years, where have you felt and known the love of God?

Closing Prayer

Lord, let your blessing come upon us in the light of this fourth candle.

May we look to its light, your son given for us, which makes us know your great love.



DECEMBER 24, 2026

CHRISTMAS EVE

Unto Us a Child is Born!



Relight the outer candles (3 purples, 1 rose).

ISAIAH 9:1–7

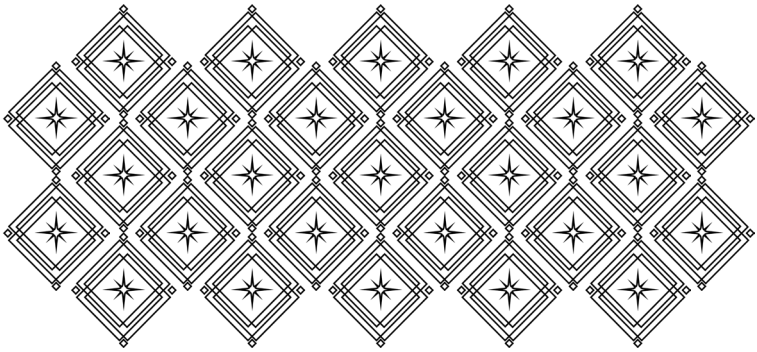
1 Nevertheless, there will be
no more gloom for those who
were in distress. In the past he
humbled the land of Zebulun
and the land of Naphtali, but
in the future he will honor
Galilee of the nations, by the
Way of the Sea, beyond the
Jordan—
2 The people walking in
darkness have seen a great
light; on those living in the
land of deep darkness a light
has dawned.
3 You have enlarged the
nation and increased their
joy; they rejoice before you as
people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when
dividing the plunder.
4 For as in the day of Midian's
defeat, you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
5 Every warrior's boot used
in battle and every garment
rolled in blood will be destined
for burning, will be fuel for
the fire.
6 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.
7 Of the greatness 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. The
zeal of the Lord Almighty will
accomplish this.

Light the Candle: White

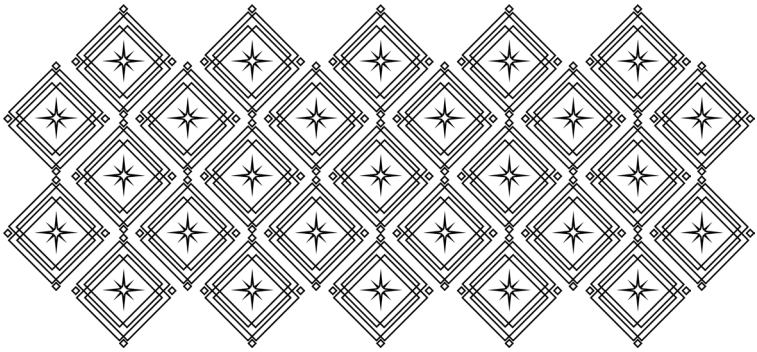
This last candle represents the great light, the light that has dawned, Jesus Christ our King. These many weeks we have waited for the night of His birth, just as the people of ages past waited centuries for His coming. Even tonight, as we celebrate His birth, we eagerly await His return.

Closing Prayer

Lord, let your blessing come upon us in the light of this candle. May we worship you who are called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. May your reign and your perfect peace know no end. Amen!



ADVENT FOR SQUIRMY LITTLE ONES



NOVEMBER 22, 2026

1ST ADVENT CANDLE—HOPE!

New Things I Declare to You!

No candles are lit as we begin.



ISAIAH 42:1-9

1 "Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations.

2 He will not shout or raise his voice in public.

3 He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle. He will bring justice to all who have been wronged.

4 He will not falter or lose heart until justice prevails throughout the earth. Even distant lands beyond the sea will wait for his instruction."

5 God, the Lord, created the heavens and stretched them out. He created the earth and everything in it. He gives breath to everyone, life to everyone who walks the earth. And it is he who says,

6 "I, the Lord, have called you to demonstrate my righteousness. I will take you by the hand and guard you, and I will give you to my people, Israel, as a symbol of my covenant with them. And you will be a light to guide the nations.

7 You will open the eyes
of the blind. You will free
the captives from prison,
releasing those who sit in
dark dungeons.
8 "I am the Lord; that is my
name! I will not give my glory
to anyone else, nor share my
praise with carved idols.
9 Everything I prophesied
has come true, and now I will
prophesy again. I will tell you
the future before it happens."

Light the Candle: Purple

Our first candle stands for HOPE. If God was able to bring His servant to us after 700 years, He can surely complete his mission now!

God has always kept all His promises. He promised once to send Jesus, His Servant, and Jesus came! That is how we know God will keep all His future promises to—like his promise to come back, save us, and let us live with Him forever.

Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question:

What are you hoping for Christmas? What do you hope for next year?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you for your promises and the hope they bring. Amen.

NOVEMBER 29, 2026

2ND ADVENT CANDLE—PEACE!

I Did Not Hide My Face

Relight the candle of Hope (purple) before we begin.





ISAIAH 50:4-11

4 God, our king has given me wisdom, so I know how to make tired, frightened people better. Every morning, God wakes me up and helps me understand what he wants me to do.

5 God the kings has spoken to me, and I have listened. I have not ignored him.

6 When people beat me, I let them I let them pull out my beard hair. I did not run away when they made fun of me and spit on me

7 Because God my king helps me, I will not be ashamed.

I just keep looking at God, I will do what God tells me to do. I know the enemy cannot defeat me.

8 God is close and he will make it right soon. Who dares to say I did anything wrong? Where are the people who lied about me? I don't see them!

9 See, God the king is on my side! Who will say I did anything wrong? No one!

All my enemies will be destroyed my enemies are eaten up by God's very hungry caterpillars!

10 Who knows you should obey God and also obey his servant Jesus? If you are walking in darkness, without a ray of light, trust in the Lord

and rely on your God.

11 But watch out, you who just do what you want to do all the time making up your own rules and ignoring God.

If you do that, God says: You will soon fall down and be very sorry.

Light the Candle: a Second Purple

Our second candle stands for PEACE. While we want peace from our circumstances, what we need is peace with God. It's the only peace that lasts. It's the one peace from which every other peace comes.

And this peace comes only from the light of Christ. So, stare into this second candle and let Jesus bring you home.

Isaiah 50:10 says, "Who among you fears the Lord and obeys his servant? If you are walking in darkness, without a ray of light, trust in the Lord and rely on your God."

Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question:

What do you like to do when you feel peaceful? When did you feel peaceful this week?

Closing Prayer

Lord, we thank you for Jesus and the peace He has brought us! Amen.

DECEMBER 6, 2026

3RD ADVENT CANDLE—JOY!

I Will Make You a Light!

Relight the candle of Hope and Peace
before we begin (two purples).



ISAIAH 49:1-6, 8-10, 12-13

1 Listen to me, all you in distant lands! Pay attention, you who are far away! The Lord called me before I was born; inside my mother, God called me by name.

2 He made my words powerful. I was God's secret weapon.

3 He said to me, "You are my servant, and you will bring God glory."

4 I replied, "But my work seems so useless! But I trust you God, you will make my work great! I will trust God for my reward."

5 And now the Lord speaks—the Lord who made me the Lord who gave me the mission to save God's people The Lord has honored me, and my God has given me strength.

6 He says, "You will do more than save the nation of Israel I will make you a light to everyone in the world! you will bring salvation to all people everywhere."....

8 I will protect you and give you to the people you will be a sign of my promise to rescue them.

9 I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out in freedom,' and to those in darkness, 'Come into the light.'

10 People will not be hungry or thirsty . . .

12 See, my people will return from far away, from lands to the north and west, and from as far south as Egypt."

13 Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted his people and will care for the hurting.

Light the Candle: Rose

Our third candle stands for JOY. God has sent Jesus to save us. He promised this 700 years before the first Christmas. And He never forgot His promise. He sent Jesus to us! So, we celebrate with joy!

Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question:

What brings you joy? Did you have any joy this week?

Closing Prayer

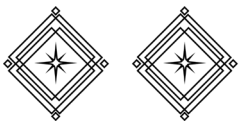
Lord, we thank you for Jesus and the joy He has brought us! Amen

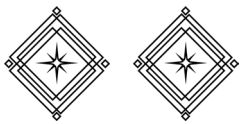
DECEMBER 13, 2026

4TH ADVENT CANDLE—LOVE!

He Was Whipped So We Could be Healed

Relight the candle of Hope, Peace, and Joy before we begin (two purples & one rose).





ISAIAH 52:13-53:10

God says, I will make my servant great! He will succeed! But when we saw him, he was so beat up, we could barely tell he was a man. But in the end, I tell you, Kings will stand quiet before him!

Who has believed this promise from God? God's servant grew up poor. He wasn't fancy or handsome or flashy.

In fact, people hated God's servant. God's servant was often sad. And most of us didn't even care. But God's servant was sad because of us! Our sin caused his sadness.

We thought God's servant was hurting because of his own sin. But he was nailed up, and stabbed, beaten for our sins, not his. In fact, he was taking our punishment for us! He was whipped so we could be healed.

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

He was treated cruelly, yet

he was quiet. He was led like a lamb to be killed, but he never said a word. It wasn't fair that they led him away.

No one cared that he died without children or grandchildren, But he was killed to pay for the evil of people like us. He had done no wrong and had never lied to anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

But this was all the Lord's good plan because he paid for the sins of the world and now he has many children—all of us! We are his children! And he won eternal life! This was God's good plan!

When God's servant sees all he accomplished, He will be filled with joy!

Light the Candle: Purple

Our fourth candle stands for LOVE. Jesus loved us so much, He died so we would not have to. In Jesus we see how much God loves us!

Sharing

Everyone who wishes, take turns answering this question:

How do you know your family loves you? How do you know God loves you?

Closing Prayer

Lord, we thank you for Jesus and the love He has brought us! Amen.

DECEMBER 24, 2026

CHRISTMAS EVE

Unto Us a Child is Born

Relight the outer candles (three purples & one rose).



ISAIAH 9:6-7

6 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.
7 Of the greatness 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. The
zeal of the Lord Almighty will
accomplish this.

Light the Candle: White

This last candle represents the great light, the light that has dawned, Jesus Christ our King. The waiting for Christmas is almost over!

Closing Prayer

Lord, we are glad the wait for Christmas is almost over. We pray for your second coming, too. May we not wait long for you to come and set all this right! Amen.

You'll use these items throughout our Advent experience as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

Scan the QR codes to purchase your own wreath & candles.





Wreath

Candles