

SUPERINTENDENT: The first candle reminds us of faith, the faith we have in God that He will keep His promise to send His Son.

VERSE: (to be said by a student)

One Advent candle now we light
To show the coming gift of light
Now hasten to our darkened sight
The light that's given from above.

SCRIPTURE: The Prophecy from Isaiah 9:2; 6-7; 40:3-5; 52:7

CAROL: "The First Noel"

PRAYER: Dear God, as the world that sat in darkness looked forward to Your coming, so we on this first Sunday of Advent light the candle of our anticipation. We eagerly desire Your coming to our souls to dispel the darkness of sin and prideful living, to ignite in us the flame of love and service to our fellow humans. Amen.

DISCUSSION: God kept His promise to send the Messiah. What other promises does God make? Does He keep them?

Second Sunday of Advent

The candle is blue to express hope.

The service begins with the lighting of the first two candles by a student. Review what the color of the first candle signifies.

SUPERINTENDENT: The second candle reminds us of the hope we have that Christ will come again this year to bring new joy into our lives.

VERSE: Now that Advent lights are two
Let us hasten to renew our vows
To pilgrim over field and stone
To find the Child and be at home.

SCRIPTURE: The promise from St. Luke 1:5-31.

CAROL: "Joy to the World"

PRAYER: Come, Lord, into our joyless world. Put a smile on our lips and a song in our hearts. We have been sad too long. Amen.

DISCUSSION: Christ came to bring joy and make our joy complete. How does He bring joy to our hearts today? Why should the Christian be joyful?

Third Sunday of Advent

The candle is gold to express love.

The service begins with the lighting of the first three candles by a student. Review what the colors of the first two candles signify.

SUPERINTENDENT: As we light the third candle let us remember the words of St. John when he said that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son."

VERSE: Now three Advent candles burn

To promise aching hearts that yearn
Beneath open sky or in crowded cell,
That Christ is coming with them to dwell.

SCRIPTURE: The Annunciation to Mary in St. Luke 1:26-38.

CAROL: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help us to remember Your great Gift to us at Christmas—the Gift of Your love: Jesus. May His love possess our hearts this Advent and flow out from us to needy mankind. Amen.

DISCUSSION: Talk about the life of St. Nicholas, who was

known for his great generosity in distributing gifts and money to the poor. He preferred to disguise himself and deliver his gifts after dark so that no one would know who had left them. How can we follow his example in giving gifts to the needy this Christmas?

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The candle is white to signify peace.

The service begins with the lighting of the first four candles by a student. Review the meaning of the first three colors.

SUPERINTENDENT: The fourth candle reminds us of the Angel's message to the shepherds, "Peace on earth and good will toward men."

VERSE: Four Advent candles burn.

Now we with Wise Men turn
To seek the Child Who brings us light
And follow Him where'er He goes
In blazing sun or blackest night.

SCRIPTURE: The Journey to Bethlehem in St. Luke 2:1-18.

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

PRAYER: Christ, You are our Peace. You broke down the wall that separated us from God. Now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Make us reconcilers and peacemakers. Amen.

DISCUSSION: Is there someone who has something against us? Do we have something against anyone? What relationships in our lives need repairing? Whom do we need to forgive? The Prince of Peace is coming. Prepare the way. Forgive and be forgiven.

The Fifth Sunday of Advent

The candle is purple to signify repentance.

The service begins with the lighting of the first five candles by a student. Review the meaning of the last four candles, i.e., faith, hope, love and peace.

SUPERINTENDENT: The fifth candle reminds us of our need to repent before we can meet the coming Christ. "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."

SCRIPTURE: Preparing the way for the coming of the Messiah through repentance (St. Mark 1:1-8, 14 and 15).

PRAYER: Lord, help us make straight the way for You to come to us this Christmas. Grant us Your grace that we may smooth out the ruts of sin and remove the roadblocks of pride. Give us the second baptism, the baptism of tears, that we may return to You and, embraced like the Prodigal Son, be restored to full Sonship. Amen.

DISCUSSION: Discuss the meaning of repentance.

The Sixth Sunday of Advent

The candle is red to signify Holy Communion.

The service begins with the lighting of the six candles. Review the meaning of the last five, i.e., faith, hope, love, peace and repentance.

SUPERINTENDENT: The sixth candle reminds us that Christ, Who came in Bethlehem and Who will come again at the end of time, *comes to us now* in the great Sacrament of His Presence, i.e., Holy Communion. The reason He was born in Bethlehem was that we might allow Him to come and be born in the manger of our hearts.

SCRIPTURE: The Coming of the Logos (St. John 1:1-18). His coming today in the Eucharist (St. John 6:52-58).