

**November 29 – First Sunday of Advent**  
*Candle of HOPE (blue)*  
Daniel 6:6-27

Sometimes we pray, facing an unknown fate.

Sometimes we pray, facing an uncertain world.

Although he would soon be thrown to the lions, Daniel trusted in God.

We hold that hope.

When life takes us to the dangerous edge, we face our own lions.

We stay awake through the night, trying to tame depression, debt, job loss, addiction, broken relationships.

We draw our hope from God.

And at dawn, the light comes again.

*Light the first candle.*

“God is rescuer and savior; God performs signs and miracles in heaven and on earth.”  
Our living God gives hope.  
AMEN



**December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent**  
*Candle of PEACE (blue)*  
Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

In a torn world, we wonder how to act with compassion.

In our own lives, we wonder where to find harmony.

Even when we don't agree on the details, we want the same thing.

We all want peace.

Like people in exile, we feel displaced.

We try to find our way in a world where we cannot find our familiar landmarks, forgetting to look to God first.

Without God, there is no peace.

Even now, we can return to God.

*Light the first and second candles.*

“Return to the Lord your God, for God is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive.”

Our forgiving God brings peace. AMEN

**December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent**  
*Candle of JOY (blue)*  
Isaiah 61:1-11

In this season of gift-buying, it's easy to confuse possessions with happiness.

Sometimes we choose the material when we need the mystical.

Sometimes we hesitate to really feel it; we're bound up in other worries.

We could all use some joy.

We have turned avoidance into a kind of exile.

Now it's time to come together again, to bind up broken hearts together.

Get ready for good news of great joy.

Let us celebrate God's goodness.

*Light the first, second, and third candles.*

“I surely rejoice in the Lord; my heart is joyful because of my God.”

Our loving God promises everlasting joy.  
AMEN

**December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
*Candle of LOVE (pink)*  
Luke 1:26-49 (The Annunciation and Magnificat)

There are many kinds of love in this world:

between parents and children, with extended family, for friends we have known all our lives, romance pressured by the season, and the selfless kindness of strangers.

We're all looking for love.

The angel called on Mary to bring God-with-us into the world, to love and nurture Jesus.

The conversation started with, "Do not be afraid!"

O, make us brave to say it!

Love requires courage.

*Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.*

"Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her."

Our in-breaking God is love.  
AMEN

**December 24 – Christmas Eve**  
*CHRIST candle (white)*  
Luke 2:1-20 and Psalm 96

Our living God gives hope.  
*Light the first candle.*

Our forgiving God brings peace.  
*Light the second candle.*

Our loving God promises everlasting joy.  
*Light the third candle.*

Our in-breaking God is love.  
*Light the fourth candle.*

Now our waiting comes to an end.

The time for rejoicing is here!

Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

We will sing to the Lord! We will bless God's holy name!  
*Light the Christ candle.*

"Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people."

Jesus Christ is born!  
AMEN

