



Advent Candle Lighting

(Advent Year C)

These candle lighting prayers are suggested for use alongside the musical piece “O Come O Come Emmanuel” (traditional music, lyrics © 2021 Adrian Marchuk). [Videos](#) with music are available each week and at Christmas. As the weeks progress, relight the candles from the previous weeks during the song so that at Christmas all candles are glowing.

You are invited to play with these liturgies in a way that works within your congregation’s setting: with multiple voices, scripture sentences, and using the question at the end to invite testimony.

WEEK 1: HOPE

[Video](#)



Lyrics

O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 21:25–36)

When the world seems scary
When we try to escape and hide
The Holy invites us to confront fear
And we find Hope
(*Hope candle is lit*)
Where in the world do we find Hope these days?

WEEK 2: PEACE

[Video](#)



Lyrics

O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 3:1–6)

When conflict seems never-ending,
relationships rocky,
When we want to deny and pretend,
The Holy invites us to make space
for truth-telling
And we find Peace
(*Peace candle is lit*)
Where in the world do we find Peace these days?

WEEK 3: JOY[Video](#)**Lyrics**

O come to us like joy of heaven's dawn,
 From Mary's womb a faithful paragon
 Brought forth into this world by love's power
 Your Spirit through her labors in that hour
 Rejoice, rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to us
 And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 3:7–18)

When confusion claims us
 When we feel unable to do anything right
 The Holy invites us to be faithful
 And we find Joy
 (*Joy candle is lit*)
 Where in the world do we find Joy these days?

WEEK 4: LOVE[Video](#)**Lyrics**

O come you source of Love unto us all
 Enlighten us and help us hear your call
 To bear your Love out into the wild
 And celebrate God's wondrous holy Child!
 Rejoice, rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to us
 And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 1:46–55)

When we feel invisible, ineffective
 Too small to make a difference
 The Holy invites us to be God-Bearers
 And we find Love
 (*Love candle is lit*)
 Where in the world do we find Love these days?

CHRISTMAS: AWE[Video](#)**Lyrics**

O come you source of Love unto us all
 Enlighten us and help us hear your call
 To bear your Love out into the wild
 And celebrate God's wondrous holy child!
 Rejoice, rejoice!
 Emmanuel shall come to us
 And all things shall be well
 Rejoice, rejoice!
 Emmanuel has come to us
 And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual (Luke 2:1–20)

When the world seems predictable
 Stuck in patterns of injustice and hurt
 The Holy astonishes us with good news
 And we find Awe
 (*Christ candle is lit*)
 Where in the world do we know Awe these days?

*By Susan Blain, United Church of Christ,
 and Alydia Smith, The United Church of Canada*

© 2021 The United Church of Canada and United Church of Christ. Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial No Derivatives (by-nc-nd) Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.