

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Advent 4 - LOVE

- Reader 1 Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah. We are in awe of Jesus' birth - that God came to us this way, in a weak and vulnerable baby. The mighty God of the universe has become Emmanuel, "God with us."
- Reader 2 The first Advent candle reminds us to have hope for a better world. (Light the first purple candle.) The second Advent candle reminds us that God's dreams for peace can become real in our world. (Light the second purple candle.)
- Reader 1 The third Advent candle reminds us that God calls us to share joy by being part of the healing of the world. (Light the pink candle.) Today, we light the fourth Advent candle. It reminds us of God's promise to be with us and to love us, now and always. (Light the fourth purple candle.)

ALL: Loving God, we thank you for your promise that you will be with us always. We rejoice in your faithfulness. Give us courage to respond with the same love and compassion shown by Jesus. Amen.

The Christ Candle - Christmas Eve - Emmanuel - God with us!

- Reader 1 The waiting is over.
- Reader 2 The dreaming has given birth to a new reality.
- Reader 1 The source of our healing has come near.
- Reader 2 God's promise has been fulfilled.
- Reader 1 The Advent candles are all lit, forming a circle of light that reminds us of God's never ending love.
- Reader 2 Now we light the Christmas Candle, remembering that Jesus is in our midst, today and always. (Light the Christ candle.)

ALL: Thank you, God, for coming to be with us in the form of Jesus. We rejoice that he lived as one of us, knew our joys and sorrows, our pains and hopes and dreams. As he came to show your love to us, help us to show your love to others all the year through. Amen.

A Candle is Burning

We honour Messiah with Christ's candle flame
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim
O Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.