

Advent Candle Readings: Darkness and Light

We light [this candle/these candles] as a reminder of the coming light of Christ. Advent means "coming;" we are preparing for the full coming of God's Kingdom.

1st Sunday: God created light

The first candle reminds us that God created light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:3-4 [Longer reading: Genesis 1:1-5]

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness."

Dear God, thank you for creating light, and life, and all of creation. Teach us to trust in you, our Creator-God. Amen.

2nd Sunday: God is our light

The second candle reminds us that God is our light-- when life seems dark, God is a light to us.

Psalm 27:1 [Longer reading: Psalm 27:1, 13-14]

"The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?"

Dear Lord, You are our strength and our light. Protect our hearts from fear. Amen.

3rd Sunday: A light of hope

The third candle reminds us that God's light is a light of hope; even in the darkest times, God prevails.

Isaiah 9:2 [Longer reading: Isaiah 9:2, 11:1-3]

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

God, the hope of Jesus is our light. Teach us to place our hopes in Him. Amen.

4th Sunday: A light of promise

The fourth candle reminds us of the promise that the Light of the world brings us.

Isaiah 60:19 [Longer reading: Isaiah 59:9; 60:1-3, 19]

"The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory."

Father, the promise of Jesus' work is a glorious light. Turn our hearts to hope in that promise. Amen.

Christmas/Christmas Eve: The Light of life

The fifth candle reminds us that Christ alone offers us the light of life.

John 1:4-5 [Longer reading: John 1:1-5, 9, 14]

"In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."

Lord Jesus, You alone can offer us the light of life. Let your light shine brightly in our hearts. Amen.

Readings suggested from *The Worship Sourcebook, Har/Cdr ed., The Worship Sourcebook (Baker Books, 2004)*, pp. 436-437.

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