

# All Are Welcome

*Liturgical Resources for Trauma-Sensitive Congregations*



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COLLECTS

Advent 1 --- Hope

Hope-bringer,

**you in whom we live and move and have our being,  
may your advent revive our waning spirits,  
so that we may embody your hope anew  
to a fearful and weary world.**

**We ask this in the name of God with us,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.** <sup>iii</sup>

*Advent 2 --- Peace*

Peace-maker,

**you who gave breath to a voice in the wilderness  
calling us to prepare,  
clothe us in the beauty of your compassion  
and swaddle us against all fear,  
so that we may rest in your arms of love  
and share in your way of shalom.**

**We ask this in the name of the one  
who was, and who is, and who is to come,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.** <sup>iv</sup>

*Advent 3 --- Joy*

Joy-giver,

**you who rejoice over us with gladness  
and renew us in your love,  
fashion us into an Advent people,  
baptized in your power,  
and making way for the joyous light  
that no darkness could overcome,  
so that all might see your goodness.**

**We ask this in the name of your incarnate Word,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.** <sup>v</sup>

*Advent 4 --- Love*

Love-bearer,

**you who called a faithful handmaiden  
to carry the essence of love,  
make room in our hearts for your arrival,  
amidst the winter chill,  
so that we, warmed by your presence,  
may share the good news of your coming with all.**

**We ask this in the name of our brother and friend,  
Jesus the Christ. Amen.** <sup>vi</sup>

## APPENDIX 1: THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

An Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. Set on the branches of the wreath are four candles, three blue or purple candles and one pink candle. In the centre of the wreath sits a white candle.

During the season of Advent, one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as part of Advent services. They remind us to light the way for the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The word *advent* itself derives from the Latin *adventus* meaning *coming*.

- On the first Sunday of Advent, the first blue or purple candle is lit. In the rite that follows, this candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming of Christ.
- On the second Sunday of Advent, the first and second blue or purple candles are lit, the second representing peace and the coming of Christ as a bearer of peace.
- On the third Sunday of Advent, two blue or purple candles are lit as well as the pink candle. The pink candle represents the joy of Mary and of the shepherds in hearing the tidings of good news told to them by the angels. The pink candle is sometimes called the Mary candle.
- On the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, all four candles are lit, the final blue or purple candle representing love, the love of God manifested in Jesus.
- On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is lit, along with all the other candles. The white candle represents the life and light of Christ that has come into the world. As a colour, white is often associated with light and purity.

### Versicles and Responses for Lighting Advent Candles

#### Advent One: Hope

We light this candle of hope,  
remembering your promise to bring justice  
and to be our righteousness.

Risking hope in this season of anticipation,  
**watching and waiting for your Holy Light,**  
we come in faith and say:  
**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**<sup>xlviii</sup>

## Advent Two: Peace

We light this candle of peace,  
remembering your call to put on beauty and humility  
and to embody your righteousness.

Seeking peace in this season of anticipation,  
**watching and waiting for your Holy Light,**  
we come in faith and say:  
**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!** <sup>xlix</sup>

## Advent Three: Joy

We light this candle of joy,  
remembering your joy over us,  
and your promise to renew us in your love.

Finding joy in this season of anticipation,  
**watching and waiting for your Holy Light,**  
we come in faith and say:  
**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!** <sup>i</sup>

## Advent Four: Love

We light this candle of love,  
remembering your abiding love for us,  
and manifested through the person and life of Jesus.

Sharing love in this season of anticipation,  
**watching and waiting for your Holy Light,**  
we come in faith and say:  
**Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!** <sup>ii</sup>