

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

### Lighting the Candle of Hope

The Lord says, I am about to create new heavens,  
and a new earth!

*The injustice and violence of the past and present shall not be repeated,  
nor shall the suffering you've inflicted or endured burden your hearts and minds.*

### Lighting the Candle of Peace

All people shall inhabit homes,  
and all people shall enjoy the fruit of their labor.

*Nobody shall live in the alley or sleep under the bridge,  
and nobody will work so others can eat, while they themselves go hungry.*

### Lighting the Candle of Joy

Rejoice!  
Again, I say, rejoice!

*For I, the Lord, rejoice in you!  
My people's joy brings me great delight!*

### Lighting the Candle of Love

No longer shall the strong prey upon the vulnerable,  
wolves and lambs will feed side by side,

*The strong will love and care for the vulnerable,  
the vulnerable will love and be grateful for the strong.*

## READINGS AND CAROLS

<b>Carol</b>	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> vs. 1-4	Red Hymnal 88
<b>Reading</b>	"Mary, you have found favor with God"	Luke 1: 26-38
<b>Carol</b>	<i>Lo, How a Rose</i>	129 Red Hymnal
<b>Reading</b>	"My soul magnifies the Lord"	based on Luke 1: 46-55

Mary said, my soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my savior, because God has looked with favor upon my lowliness.

*I am weak, not powerful. Hungry, not full. Poor, not rich. Simple, not learned.  
Yet God has looked with favor upon me, God's humble servant.*

Forever, generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me.

*Holy is God's name!*

God's mercy extends to those in awe of God, from generation to generation. God has reached out to perform mighty deeds.

*God has scattered those who are arrogant and swollen with pride, brought down unjust rulers from their thrones, lifted up the humble, filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.*

God has helped God's servant, Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as God promised to our fathers.

*My soul glorifies the Lord! My spirit rejoices in God, my savior!*

<b>Carol</b>	<i>My Heart Sings Out</i>	106 Black Hymnal
<b>Reading</b>	"Joseph, do not be afraid"	Matthew 1: 18-25
<b>Carol</b>	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	115 Red Hymnal
<b>Reading</b>	"The time came for the baby to be born"	Luke 2: 1-7
<b>Carol</b>	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	121 Red Hymnal
<b>Reading</b>	"An angel appeared to the shepherds"	Based on Luke 2: 8-20

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying:

*Glory! Glory be to God!  
Glory be to God in the highest heavens!  
May there be peace on earth this night, peace among all whom God loves!  
Glory be to God in the highest!*

