

M.A.

## **ADVENT LITANY**

### **Introduction for all four Sundays In Advent**

(1 John 4: 9-12)

LEADER 1: "God's love has been made known to us.  
For God has sent Christ into the world that all people might have life.  
My friends, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

PEOPLE: No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another,  
God lives in union with us and God's love abides in us.

LEADER 2: Let us seek to love God as God loved us."

### **First Sunday of Advent**

LEADER 1: Christians around the world await the advent of Christ.  
A tiny jewel of light dances on the edge of the horizon:  
a solitary star before sunrise glimmers a promise of dawn  
at the end of the world's night.  
We gather and wait as a people of hope.

PEOPLE: Jesus, Light of the World, "Emmanuel", God-with-us, the Promised One.

LEADER 2: Today, Christian people around the world anticipate a miracle that has been  
repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.  
Jesus has come... and is coming, to bring a kingdom of justice and peace.

PEOPLE: Our hope springs anew from an ancient vision.

LEADER 1: Let this first Advent candle stand for hope not based on wishful thinking,  
but on deep conviction.  
We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the  
Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

PEOPLE: We hope for peace and prosperity for all nations,  
for security to be known in every land.

LEADER 2: "Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.  
Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.  
The night is far gone, the day is near."  
Let us wait for the light as a people of hope.

PEOPLE: Jesus is the Light of the World, "Emmanuel", God-with-us,  
the Promised One.

## **Second Sunday of Advent**

LEADER 1: The season of Advent continues.  
We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles.

PEOPLE: We are a people of hope.  
Hope lives in us and will abide with us.

LEADER 2: Last Sunday, the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce  
the darkness of desolation and sin.

PEOPLE: Today, we light a second candle and wait with hope for the time  
when righteousness will flourish and peace abound in a healed creation.

LEADER 1: This light, too, must brave great darkness.

PEOPLE: In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves,  
and when all the earth stands under the threat of terrorism,  
we light a fire called peace.

LEADER 2: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict,  
but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all.  
That is the peace for which we dare to hope.

PEOPLE: Jesus comes to bring peace  
to those who have been separated from God and from one another.

LEADER 1: The root of Jesse is coming,  
the One who will rule us with wisdom and might.

PEOPLE: Let us see God's vision of righteousness and peace.

LEADER 2: "The wolf shall live with the lamb."

PEOPLE: We can see it. We will see it.

LEADER 1: "The leopard shall lie down with the kid."

PEOPLE: We will see it. We can see it.

LEADER 2: "The calf, and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child will lead them."

PEOPLE: "Righteousness will flourish and peace abound."  
Blessed be the Lord, who alone does wondrous things!

### Third Sunday of Advent

LEADER 1: Jesus is the Light of the World, "Emmanuel", God-with-us,  
the Promised One.

PEOPLE: Now is the advent of the long waited Messiah, our bringer of hope,  
our Prince of Peace,  
our leader of love.

LEADER 2: We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.

PEOPLE: At first there was the frail light of a single candle,  
daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin, calling us to hope.

LEADER 1: A second candle, a gentle persistent fire,  
reminds us that this violent world is not our eternal home,  
that we must walk with Jesus in the ways of peace.

PEOPLE: And today's candle reminds us of God's love for all people everywhere.

LEADER 2: Wake up to God's vision of love.

PEOPLE: For God so loved the world that a child was given.  
A savior came, in the form of Love Incarnate.  
And love lived on....and the darkness has not overcome it.

LEADER 1: Wake up to God's vision of love!

PEOPLE: "The blind receive their sight,  
the lame walk,  
the lepers are cleansed,  
the dead are raised  
and the poor have good news brought to them."

LEADER 2: We gather, we wait,  
we long for the dawning of God's pervasive, enduring, and healing love.

PEOPLE: We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

LEADER 1: We live with hope.  
We work for peace.  
We rejoice in God's love.  
Joy to the world!

PEOPLE: Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns. Let us, our songs employ!

LEADER 2: Let us sing to the glory of God.

PEOPLE: Let us sing in the name of Jesus,  
who gives us hope in the prison of despair.

LEADER 1: And peace in the chaos of life.

PEOPLE: God's love to all - graciously, silently, vulnerably offered.

LEADER 2: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,  
and they will call him 'Emmanuel', 'God with us'."

PEOPLE: Hatred and warfare, injustice and suffering, are not the last word,  
for they are not of God.

LEADER 1: We hear again the promise of peace,  
coming in the One who lived Shalom among all people.

PEOPLE: We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness.

LEADER 2: We feel again the joy that comes through partnership in the gospel.

PEOPLE: We are a people of hope, peace, love and joy.  
Joy to the world!

LEADER 1: Let every heart prepare Him room.

PEOPLE: And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.