

LITANY FOR THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

We gather for worship and expectation.

We gather to look for Jesus.

The world is not as it should be.

The world is full of brokenness and sin.

There are too many things wrong with us.

There are too many things for us to fix.

We cannot make ourselves or anyone else right.

We need God to come into our world.

We light this candle as a prayer for God to come and save us.

The first Advent candle is lit.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All join in singing the refrain:

**In Christ there is no darkness at all,
the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the City of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

*Litany written by Joshua W. Hale (2008)
Collect from The Book of Common Prayer (1979)
Refrain by Kathleen Thomerson (1966),
#206 in The United Methodist Hymnal (1989)*

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LITANY FOR THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

We gather for worship and expectation.

We gather to look for Jesus.

Jesus cautions us that the signs are difficult.

Jesus warns us to stay awake.

The kingdom surprises us, breaking through in unexpected ways.

The kingdom surprises us, coming quickly.

We await God's arrival with prayer and perseverance.

We await God's arrival with justice and forgiveness.

We light this candle as a prayer for God to awaken and prepare us.

The second Advent candle is lit.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All join in singing the refrain:

**In Christ there is no darkness at all,
the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the City of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

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LITANY FOR THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

We gather for worship and expectation.

We gather to look for Jesus.

We are on the edge—arrive with good news.

We are broken-hearted—bind up our wounds.

We are imprisoned—free us for joyful obedience.

We mourn—comfort us.

We are in despair—proclaim your favor.

We are exiled—bring us home.

We light this candle as a prayer for God to send his Anointed One.

The third Advent candle is lit.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All join in singing the refrain:

**In Christ there is no darkness at all,
the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the City of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

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LITANY FOR THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

We gather for worship and expectation.

We gather to look for Jesus.

Lift up the lowly.

Fill the hungry.

Help your servants in spite of our faithlessness.

Help us see the potential for new life in the midst of barrenness.

Show us the way of Mary.

Show us the way of obedience in the midst of doubt.

We light this candle as a prayer for God to up-end our priorities.

The fourth Advent candle is lit.

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All join in singing the refrain:

**In Christ there is no darkness at all,
the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the City of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

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LITANY FOR THE CHRIST CANDLE

We gather for worship and expectation.

We gather to look for Jesus.

God is with us, not distant from us.

God is for us, not against us.

Where there is the Prince of Peace,

war and violence and terror will cease.

Where there is the Wonderful Counselor,

health and wholeness and salvation will appear.

We light this candle as a prayer for God to dwell with us always!

The Christ candle is lit.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy celebration of Christmas to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

All join in singing the refrain:

In Christ there is no darkness at all,

the night and the day are both alike.

The Lamb is the light of the City of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

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