

Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love — 4-Week Series

Four Sundays of Advent following the traditional candle themes, each with a preaching outline and a short candle reading.

Whole-church Advent series with candle-lighting readings

About this series

Advent is the church's discipline of waiting. The candles are not decoration; they mark a congregation refusing to rush to Bethlehem.

Each week gives the candle theme, a preaching outline, and a short reading a family or elder can deliver at the lighting.

The arc of the series

Hope in the promise, peace in the prophecy, joy in the announcement, love in the arrival.

Planning notes

- Invite a different family to read and light each Sunday.
- Give the congregation the Advent reading plan printable to follow midweek.
- Hold the Christ candle reading for Christmas Eve.

The Candle of Hope

Big idea

Biblical hope is not optimism; it is certainty about a promise not yet visible.

Outline

1. A people walking in darkness (Isa 9:2)
2. The government upon his shoulder (Isa 9:6)
3. The God of hope fill you (Rom 15:13)

Key verse

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Application question

What are you waiting on God for, and are you waiting in hope or in anxiety?

Sermon notes

The Candle of Peace

Big idea

The Prince of Peace comes to a world that manufactures war, and He begins with peace between God and man.

Outline

1. A rod out of the stem of Jesse
2. The way of peace (Luke 1:79)
3. Peace made by the blood of his cross (Col 1:20)

Key verse

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:79 (KJV)

Application question

Where do you need to stop fighting and be reconciled?

Sermon notes

The Candle of Joy

Big idea

The angel's first word to terrified shepherds is joy — and it is announced to the least likely audience in Judea.

Outline

1. Good tidings of great joy
2. To all people
3. Glory to God in the highest

Key verse

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10 (KJV)

Application question

Who in your life would be most surprised to be included in this announcement?

Sermon notes

The Candle of Love

Big idea

The incarnation is the measurement of God's love — not a statement about it, but the proof of it.

Outline

1. God so loved that he gave
2. Not that we loved God (1 John 4:10)
3. The Word made flesh (John 1:14)

Key verse

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world.

1 John 4:9 (KJV)

Application question

Who needs to hear this week that God's love is not a reward for their behaviour?

Sermon notes

Verse set — the whole series at a glance

Every key verse in this series, King James Version. Print this page for the worship team, the bulletin, or a memory-verse card.

Week 1 — The Candle of Hope

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Week 2 — The Candle of Peace

To guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1:79 (KJV)

Week 3 — The Candle of Joy

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Luke 2:10 (KJV)

Week 4 — The Candle of Love

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world.

1 John 4:9 (KJV)

Frequently asked questions

What are the four Advent candle themes?

Hope, peace, joy, and love, with a fifth Christ candle lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Is Advent in the Bible?

The season is a church tradition; every reading in it is Scripture. The prophecies and the nativity accounts are biblical in full.

Is the series free?

Yes — free to preach, adapt, and print.

More free KJV preaching resources at biblesundays.com/for-pastors — sermon outlines, Sunday service readings, printables, and free Bible widgets for your church website.