

Daily Advent Candle-lighting Prayers

Each day during Advent, you are invited to set aside some time to light a candle and offer a short prayer followed by a few moments of silence with your candle. You can use any candle you would like or take one of the tealights available at the back of the church during Advent.

Sunday, December 3 – *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*

I light this candle in solidarity with persons with disabilities. May my awareness be drawn this day to all the barriers – stigma, physical barriers, discrimination, etc. – that people with different abilities face.

Monday, December 4

By the light of this candle, I pray for those who feel like they are lost in the dark and do not know which way to go. I pray also for those places in myself that feel lost or lonely or afraid.

Tuesday, December 5 – *St. Nicholas Eve/Krampusnacht*

Remembering Saint Nicholas' concern for children, particularly those living in poverty, I light this candle today with a prayer for all the world's children.

Wednesday, December 6 -- *National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women*

As I light this candle, I renew my commitment to resist violence in all its forms and to work peace and justice in my family, in my community, in my country and in the world.

Thursday, December 7

In a season often filled with busyness and heavy expectations of self and others, as I light this candle I breathe in your peace this day, O God. Help me to receive this day just as it comes.

Friday, December 8

Loving God, as I light this candle, I remember that many in my community and in the world are hungry. With each morsel of food I am fortunate to eat this day, may my compassion be nourished too.

Saturday, December 9

As I light this candle, I pray for the relationships and people in my life that I find most difficult and for all others who are struggling. May their day be filled with blessing.

Sunday, December 10 – *International Human Rights Day*

I light this candle in solidarity with all those who struggle for basic human rights and in memory of prisoners of conscience everywhere. May I be attentive to the dignity and rights of all people in my living today.

Monday, December 11

The bright lights and noise of the holiday season can become overwhelming. This day I light this candle with the simple prayer that I might remember that I am enough and you are with me always.

Tuesday, December 12 – *First of Hanukkah this year*

I light this candle in solidarity with my Jewish brothers and sisters who are beginning the festival of light. I pray for and with my sisters and brothers of all faith traditions for light and love to flourish in our world.

Wednesday, December 13 – St. Lucia (Lucy) Day

As girls and women light candles and go door to door in Scandinavia remembering St. Lucia, I light this candle in celebration of independent thinkers who follow their own path in life in spite of social pressure. May my living this day be genuine and may I be true to my own path.

Thursday, December 14

As I light this candle, I remember all those in our community who struggle to make ends meet: those who are unemployed, those struggling under burdens of debt, those whose employment doesn't earn them enough to meet their household's needs.

Friday, December 15

In this season of snow and ice, I pray for all those who find it hard to get out and for all those who are lonely or isolated for whatever reason.

Saturday, December 16 – First Night of Las Posadas

As processions of Mary's and Joseph's knock on doors throughout Latin America remembering how Jesus' parents found no room at the inn, by the light of this small candle, I pray for all those who have no safe, warm place to lay their heads this night.

Sunday, December 17

This little light of mine is a prayer for the leaders of the world and all who find themselves in positions of trust in government, religion or community endeavours. May they act wisely for the good of all people.

Monday, December 18 – International Migrants Day

In solidarity with refugees, immigrants and migrant workers around the world, I light this candle in memory of all those who find themselves far from home.

Tuesday, December 19

Waiting can be hard. Why isn't it Christmas yet? My little candle today is a reminder to be patient and to have compassion for all the places in my heart and the world that are not as perfect as I would like.

Wednesday, December 20 – Service of Remembrance and Hope

I light this candle today remembering all those who grieve and honouring the places of grief in my own life. May all those who mourn experience the comfort and strength of God with them today.

Thursday, December 21 – Winter Solstice

On this the shortest day of the year, I pray for the Earth, our home.

Friday, December 22

Today I pray for and with those facing Christmas in hospital or coping with serious illness and for the medical staff and others who will care for them this Christmas.

Saturday, December 23

Holy One, as Christmas approaches, my prayer this day is for those closest to me who share my everyday life. May your blessing rest upon them today and throughout the Christmas season.

Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Light of the world, shine in my heart this holy night. Help me to welcome this holy day with a sense of wonder and awe, looking for the sacred in all things.

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

O God of angel song, shepherd surprise, stable warmth and birthing cry: surprise me the Christmas with good news and empower me to live your message of peace on earth, goodwill to all, today and everyday.

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?

It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star,

it will show you who you are;

will you hide, or decide, to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born.

In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,

and the darkness all about

is too dim to put it out:

will you hide, or decide, to meet the light?

- Hymn text by Brian Wren