

Week 1: The Candle of Hope

Like the prophets in the [Old Testament](#), we hope for a Messiah to save us from the sin in the world we anticipate our Savior's arrival.

Isaiah 9:6-7 reads, For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Christians can often confuse the word hope for wishful thinking. If we hope something will happen, we have no control over whether or not it will take place.

But the [biblical sense of hope](#) is very different. Hope, in the Bible, exists as a secure assurance, a trust placed in a trustworthy God. God has not failed us in the past, and therefore, if he claims he will do something in the future, we can have a hope that he will fulfill that claim.

Hope waits and endures. It isn't flimsy or merely wishful thinking. It can withstand fire, trials, and despair.

Advent Prayer: Heavenly Father, Advent is a time for remembering and reflecting on the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Father, I pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas.

Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the [salvation](#) that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe on your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

Week 2: The Candle of Peace

One of the hallmarks of the Christmas story is when the angels appear to the shepherds and proclaim, "Peace on earth,".

Luke 2:14 reads, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Jesus brings us peace in a number of ways.

We live in an eye-for-an-eye, revenge culture. We also live in scary times. But the peace of God transcends our circumstances and world. With this, we can be rest assured that he will come and make everything right once more.

Our peace can also stir the curiosity of those who do not believe in Christ. They will see us exercise a spirit of tranquility, faith, and they will want to know the reason for our faith in shaky times.

When they ask, we can have a reason at the ready. "I am not afraid because I have the peace of Christ."

Advent Prayer: Heavenly Father, You are the God who gives peace. This second week of Advent causes us to remember that because of Jesus we can experience a Christmas free from turmoil and chaos. Regardless of our circumstances or our situations, you offer us peace that passes understanding.

We are able to have the fullness of peace in our hearts on Christmas day, and every day, because Jesus sits at your right hand in heaven and makes intercession for us. Not only that, but he paid our sin debt. He loves us with a love that is unfathomable. Nothing can separate us from His love. He is good and his plans for us are good.

Father, this second week of Advent, keep us in perfect peace as our mind is stayed on the truth of your powerful love. Thank you for your mighty, sovereign hand. Help us to trust fully in you and rest in the peace that you offer. It's in the precious name of Jesus we pray. Amen.