

Advent Liturgies

The following are liturgical aids to augment Book of Common Prayer or Enriching our Worship liturgies. They can also be adapted to other denominational liturgical forms.

Advent typically follows the four Sunday themes of: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. While these themes are often common their order may vary from one church practice to another. For each Sunday theme the following are offered:

- A liturgy for lighting the advent wreath candles.
- A briefer alternative liturgy for the lighting the candles.
- A litany and confession using the Sunday theme.
Please note these were prepared for the Diocese of Oregon and may need editing for your location.
- Post Communion prayer using the Sunday theme.
- Blessing and Dismissal using the Sunday theme.

These liturgies were developed over a period of several years in several congregations that I served. As a liturgist, in the spirit of Archbishop Cranmer, I have cut, copied, pasted, and adapted multiple sources and glued them together with my own theology and ideas. I edited and adapted the lighting of the candles from an electronic text given to me by another priest, the original source being unknown. The remaining resources evolved over time and have numerous inputs from parishioners and colleagues. I am especially indebted to the members of the Word Guild at St. Michael's in Colorado Springs, who helped craft the Litanies and Blessings.

Rob Voyle
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Advent I: Hope

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Hope

Celebrant Our King and Savior now draws near:

People **O come, let us adore him.**

Celebrant Our help is in the name of the Lord;

People **Who made heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Show us the Light of your countenance, and we shall be saved;

People **Come and save us, O Lord of hosts.**

Celebrant In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. The first candle is the light of Hope. Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and, deep darkness, the people. But the Lord will arise over you, and his glory will be seen upon you." Lord God, your Church awaits the coming of its Savior, to enlighten our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(the acolyte lights the first candle)

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Alternative Shorter Form

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Hope

Celebrant In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. The first candle is the Light of Hope.

Lord God, your Church awaits the coming of its Savior, to enlighten our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(The first candle is lit.)

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Litany and Confession for Advent I

Intercessor With the hope of Christ's coming in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **Michael our Presiding Bishop, Diana our Bishop, and the people of our diocese ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it proclaims the Gospel of your love to the ends of the earth ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for:
People **People who despair, and for people who have lost their faith, that they discover the light of the Gospel ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for:
People **President Biden, the Congress, Senate, and the Supreme Court, and all world leaders ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for:
People **Governor Kotek and people in positions of public trust that they all serve your justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The peace of the world, that a spirit of respect, wonder, and forbearance grows among all nations and peoples ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The poor, the persecuted, for refugees, prisoners, victims of crime and terror and all who are in danger; that they be relieved and protected ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The right use of human labor and the riches of creation, that the world will be delivered from poverty, famine, and disaster ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **Our staff and vestry here in our community of hope and ourselves that we would know and manifest your purpose in our life and daily work ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love people in need of healing (*The names of people in need of healing will be read followed by a moment of silence to add those on your hearts*) and we pray for:

People **Their doctors and care givers that they be wise agents of your healing ...**
pause

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love people who have died ... and we pray for:

People **People who are grieving, especially in this holiday season, that they know the consolation of your presence ...**
pause

Confession

Intercessor With Christ's hope in our hearts, we pray for ourselves and the forgiveness of our sins:

People Almighty God, giver of good things and lover of souls,
Forgive us where we have failed to be the people you made us to be
and have been less than honorable stewards of all that you have given us.
Forgive us where we have failed to confront the evils of our day
and protect the vulnerable in our world.
Forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us, hide us afresh in your heart
as you incarnate your love in the manger of our hearts,
To set us free to be your hope in the world.

The celebrant proclaims the absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People Amen!

Advent I Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty God we thank you for your invitation to this holy table where you have welcomed us and fed us with the spiritual food of our Emmanuel, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and in him united us with one another;
Send us now into the world in hope and grant us strength and courage to embody your love in the world with gladness and singleness of heart secure in your beloved Christ.

Advent I Blessing

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People For the hope set before us, we make straight the highway for our God.

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People For the hope set before us, we lift every valley of despair with our compassion.

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People For the hope set before us, we make low every mountain of oppression.

Celebrant Almighty God, bless your Advent journey to the manger of your hearts so that the Christ light will be born afresh within you and lighten the path beneath your feet. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giving Spirit be upon you and within you and all those whom you love and struggle to love now and forever. Amen!

The Dismissal

Minister Go with hope to prepare the way of the Lord.

People We will, in the name of God. Amen!

Advent II: Hope

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Love

Celebrant Our King and Savior now draws near:

People **O come, let us adore him.**

Celebrant Our help is in the name of the Lord;

People **Who made heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Show us the Light of your countenance, and we shall be saved;

People **Come and save us, O Lord of hosts.**

Celebrant The second candle is the light of love and reminds us that Christ is the light sent into the world to show us the way out of darkness. Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'" Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, to enlighten our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(The acolyte lights the first and second candle)

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Alternative Shorter Form

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Love

Celebrant The second candle is the light of Love and reminds us that Christ is the pure expression of God's love in the world.

Lord God, your Church awaits the coming of its Savior, to awaken our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(The first and second candle are lit.)

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Litany for Advent II

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, the Word made flesh, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **Michael our Presiding Bishop, Diana our Bishop, and the people of our diocese ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we pray for:
People **The mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it proclaims the Gospel of your love to the ends of the earth ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we pray for:
People **People who despair, and for those who have lost their faith, that they discover the light of the Gospel ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **President Biden, the Congress, Senate, and the Supreme Court, and all world leaders ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we pray for:
People **Governor Kotek and people in positions of public trust that they all serve your justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we pray for:
People **The peace of the world, that a spirit of respect, wonder, and forbearance grows among all nations and peoples ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we pray for:
People **The poor, the persecuted, for refugees, prisoners, victims of crime and terror and all who are in danger; that they be relieved and protected ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we pray for:
People **The right use of human labor and the riches of creation, that the world will be delivered from poverty, famine, and disaster ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **Our staff and vestry here in our community and ourselves that we would know and manifest your purpose in our life and daily work ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we hold in the light of God's love people in need of healing
(The names of people in need of healing will be read followed by a moment of silence to add those on your hearts) and we pray for:

People **Their doctors and care givers that they be wise agents of your healing ...**
pause

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we hold in the light of God's love people who have died ... and we pray for:

People **People who are grieving, especially in this holiday season, that they know the consolation of your presence ...**
pause

Confession

Intercessor Confident in Love's incarnation, we pray for ourselves and the forgiveness of our sins:

People **Almighty God, giver of good things and lover of souls,
Forgive us where we have failed to be the people you made us to be
and have been less than honorable stewards of all that you have given us.
Forgive us where we have failed to confront the evils of our day
and protect the vulnerable in our world.
Forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us, hide us afresh in your heart
as you incarnate your love in the manger of our hearts,
To set us free to be your love in the world.**

The celebrant proclaims the absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen!**

Advent II Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty God we thank you for your invitation to this holy table where you have welcomed us and fed us with the spiritual food of our Emmanuel, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and in him united us with one another;

Send us now into the world in love and grant us strength and courage to embody your love in the world with gladness and singleness of heart secure in your beloved Christ.

Advent II Blessing

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People **For the love set before us, we make straight the highway for our God.**

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People **For the love set before us, we lift every valley of despair with our compassion.**

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People **For the love set before us, we make low every mountain of oppression.**

Celebrant Almighty God, bless your Advent journey to the manger of your hearts so that the Christ light will be born afresh within you and lighten the path beneath your feet. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giving Spirit be upon you and within you and all those whom you love and struggle to love now and forever. Amen!

The Dismissal

Minister Go with love to prepare the way of the Lord.

People **We will, in the name of God. Amen!**

Advent III: Joy

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Joy

Celebrant Our King and Savior now draws near:
People **O come, let us adore him.**

Celebrant Our help is in the name of the Lord;
People **Who made heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Show us the Light of your countenance, and we shall be saved;
People **Come and save us, O Lord of hosts.**

Celebrant In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God.

The third candle is called the Shepherd Candle, or the Candle of Joy. At the lighting of this candle, we rejoice at being half finished with our Advent journey to the manger, and we are also reminded of the angelic pronouncement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. They were terrified by the angel who in response said to them: 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the *People* to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!' Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, to enlighten our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(The acolyte lights the first, second, and third candle)

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate our hearts with your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Alternative Shorter Form

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Joy

Celebrant The third advent candle is the Light of Joy. We remember the angels pronouncement of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." Lord God, your Church awaits the coming of its Savior, to awaken our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(The first, second, and third candle are lit.)

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Litany for Advent III

Intercessor With God's abiding joy in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **Michael our Presiding Bishop, Diana our Bishop, and the people of our diocese ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it proclaims the Gospel of your love to the ends of the earth ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we pray for:
People **People who despair, and for those who have lost their faith, that they discover the light of the Gospel ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **President Biden, the Congress, Senate, and the Supreme Court, and all world leaders ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we pray for:
People **Governor Kotek and people in positions of public trust that they all serve your justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The peace of the world, that a spirit of respect, wonder, and forbearance grows among all nations and peoples ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The poor, the persecuted, for refugees, prisoners, victims of crime and terror and all who are in danger; that they be relieved and protected ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we pray for:
People **The right use of human labor and the riches of creation, that the world will be delivered from poverty, famine, and disaster ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love:
People **Our staff and vestry here in our community and ourselves that we would know and manifest your purpose in our life and daily work ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love people in need of healing
(The names of people in need of healing will be read followed by a moment of silence to add those on your hearts) and we pray for:

People **Their doctors and care givers that they be wise agents of your healing ...**
pause

Intercessor With God's joy in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love people who have died ... and we pray for:

People People who are grieving, especially in this holiday season, that they know the consolation of your presence ...
pause

Confession

Intercessor Confident in Joy's incarnation, we pray for ourselves and the forgiveness of our sins:
People **Almighty God, giver of good things and lover of souls,
Forgive us where we have failed to be the people you made us to be
and have been less than honorable stewards of all that you have given us.
Forgive us where we have failed to confront the evils of our day
and protect the vulnerable in our world.
Forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us, hide us afresh in your heart
as you incarnate your love in the manger of our hearts,
To set us free to be your joy in the world.**

The celebrant proclaims the absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen!**

Advent III Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Almighty God we thank you for your invitation to this holy table where you have welcomed us and fed us with the spiritual food of our Emmanuel, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and in him united us with one another;
Send us now into the world with joy and grant us strength and courage to embody your love in the world with gladness and singleness of heart secure in your beloved Christ.**

Advent Blessing

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People **For the joy set before us, we make straight the highway for our God.**

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People **For the joy set before us, we lift every valley of despair with our compassion.**

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People **For the joy set before us, we make low every mountain of oppression.**

Celebrant Almighty God, bless your Advent journey to the manger of your hearts so that the Christ light will be born afresh within you and lighten the path beneath your feet. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giving Spirit be upon you and within you and all those whom you love and struggle to love now and forever. Amen!

The Dismissal

Minister Go with joy to prepare the way of the Lord.

People **We will, in the name of God. Amen!**

Advent IV: Peace

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Peace

Celebrant Our King and Savior now draws near:

People **O come, let us adore him.**

Celebrant Our help is in the name of the Lord;

People **Who made heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Show us the Light of your countenance, and we shall be saved;

People **Come and save us, O Lord of hosts.**

Celebrant With the fourth Sunday of Advent calling attention to the role of Mary in the incarnational drama, the fourth candle is called the Candle of Peace, as it reminds us that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no true peace. Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, to enlighten our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

(The acolyte lights the first, second, third, and fourth candles)

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate our hearts with your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Alternative Shorter Form

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The candle of Peace

Celebrant The fourth advent candle is the Light of Peace. It reminds us that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. This is the true peace that passes all understanding that is coming into the world. Lord God, your Church awaits the coming of its Savior, the Prince of Peace, to awaken our hearts and dispel the darkness of our ignorance and sin.

The candle is lit.

Celebrant As we prepare for the coming of your Son, pour forth your blessings upon this wreath and upon us as we light its candles. Let their light radiate your splendor; through Christ our Lord, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Litany for Advent IV

Intercessor With your peace that passes all understanding in our hearts, we hold in the light of God's love:

People Michael our Presiding Bishop, Diana our Bishop, and the people of our diocese ...
pause

Intercessor In peace, we pray for:

People The mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it proclaims the Gospel of your love to the ends of the earth ... *pause*

Intercessor In peace, we pray for:

People People who despair, and for people who have lost their faith, that they discover the light of the Gospel ... *pause*

Intercessor In your peace, we hold in the light of God's love:

People President Biden, the Congress, Senate, and the Supreme Court, and all world leaders ... *pause*

Intercessor In peace we pray for:

People Governor Kotek and people in positions of public trust that they all serve your justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person ... *pause*

Intercessor In peace we pray for:

People The peace of the world, that a spirit of respect, wonder, and forbearance grows among all nations and peoples ... *pause*

Intercessor In peace we pray for:

People The poor, the persecuted, for refugees, prisoners, victims of crime and terror and all who are in danger; that they be relieved and protected ... *pause*

Intercessor In peace we pray for:

People The right use of human labor and the riches of creation, that the world will be delivered from poverty, famine, and disaster ... *pause*

Intercessor In your peace, we hold in the light of God's love:

People Our staff and vestry here in our community and ourselves that we would know and manifest your purpose in our life and daily work ... *pause*

Intercessor In your peace, we hold in the light of God's love people in need of healing (*The names of people in need of healing will be read followed by a moment of silence to add those on your hearts*) and we pray for:

People Their doctors and care givers that they be wise agents of your healing ... *pause*

Intercessor In your peace, we hold in the light of God's love people who have died ... and we pray for:

People People who are grieving, especially in this holiday season, that they know the consolation of your presence ... *pause*

Confession

Intercessor Confident in your peace, we pray for ourselves and the forgiveness of our sins:
People **Almighty God, giver of good things and lover of souls,
Forgive us where we have failed to be the people you made us to be
and have been less than honorable stewards of all that you have given us.
Forgive us where we have failed to confront the evils of our day
and protect the vulnerable in our world.
Forgive us where we have failed to support one another
and to be what we claim to be.
Forgive us, hide us afresh in your heart
as you incarnate your love in the manger of our hearts,
To set us free to be your peace in the world.**

The celebrant proclaims the absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen!**

Advent IV Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty God we thank you for your invitation to this holy table where you have welcomed us and fed us with the spiritual food of our Emmanuel, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and in him united us with one another;

Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to embody your love in the world with gladness and singleness of heart secure in your beloved Christ.

Advent Blessing

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People For the peace set before us, we make straight the highway for our God.

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People For the peace set before us, we lift every valley of despair with our compassion.

Celebrant Prepare the Way of the Lord.

People For the peace set before us, we make low every mountain of oppression.

Celebrant Almighty God, bless your Advent journey to the manger of your hearts so that the Christ light will be born afresh within you and lighten the path beneath your feet. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Life-Giving Spirit be upon you and within you and all those whom you love and struggle to love now and forever. Amen!

The Dismissal

Minister Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

People **We will, in the name of God. Amen!**