ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Liturgy for the lighting of the Advent candles on each of the four Sundays of Advent.

Advent 1: Vision
A NEW CITY

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel...I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety". (Jeremiah 33.14-16)

As a world in waiting, we wait in hope – for the city, when God will dwell with his people in safety and justice.

(First candle is lit)

Let us pray

Almighty God,
In this time of Advent,
Our world is waiting in expectation.

We are waiting for your coming,
And we await your promised time of justice and righteousness
When all shall live in peace and safety.
We pray for all in our towns and cities
Who yearn for that future.
May there also be an awakening
Of a thirst for your justice and righteousness
That in our yearning we will be ready
To receive you and your promised future with joy.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our redeemer.

Amen.

Advent 2: One World
A NEW COVENANT

"See I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed he is coming, says the Lord of hosts".
(Malachi 3.1-2)

As a world in waiting, we wait in hope – for the new covenant promised by the prophets that is and will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

(Second candle is lit – first candle already alight)

Let us pray

O God of the New Covenant,
In this time of Advent,
Our world is waiting in expectation.

We are waiting for the final fulfillment
Of your New Covenant in our Lord Jesus Christ.
In that promised future
may we come to realize a renewed solidarity
with those who are poor;
Those who are forgotten;
Those who face torture
and those who are refugees.
We pray that in our time of waiting
We may, with them, endure
And be ready to welcome the day of your coming.
We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Chirst
Whose day is near.
Amen

Advent 3: Happiness
A NEW MORALITY

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4.4-5)

As a world in waiting, we wait in hope – for the renewal of vision of a world where all can discover true peace and happiness in your justice. A justice where all will dance for joy.

(Third candle is lit)

Let us pray:

O God of hope,
In this time of Advent,
Our world is waiting in expectation.

We await a world where minds and hearts may be truly opened
To your vision of what can and will be.
May hearts be made ready,
And minds opened to the infinite possibilities
of your promised kingdom.
A kingdom where the old values are turned upside-down
And all will dance for joy at the wedding feast of the Lamb.
We pray in the name of Jesus our redeemer and Lord.
Amen.

Advent 4: A Labour of Love
NEW LIFE

"And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"
(Luke 1.43)

As a world in waiting, we know that the time is almost here: when the mighty are brought down from their thrones and the lowly lifted up; when the hungry are filled with good things, and the rich sent away empty.

(Fourth candle is lit)

Let us pray:

Incarnate God,
We are filled with excitement that our time of waiting
Is almost at an end.
That you are close,
That you will be with us – our Immanuel.
As we prepare to greet you,
May we be ready to embrace your kingdom
Where the lowly are lifted high
And the hungry filled with good things.
This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
Our hope and our salvation.

Amen.