



Week 1 Worship Resources: Peace Made Possible | Isaiah 2:2-5

Call to Worship:

Come, let's turn to the Holy.

We come to worship God our Creator.

Come, bring your hopes, fears, and longing for a better world.

We come to praise the Prince of Peace.

Come, as your whole self – body, mind, and soul.

We come to receive the Spirit who gives us life.

ALL: God, as we attend to you, fill us with peace. Amen.

Unison Prayer:

Holy One, we gather today at the start of this Advent season with expectant hearts. Slow us down, God. Calm our hearts. Still our minds. Help us to be present to your Holy Spirit nudges, so we can witness the unexpected ways you are at work. O Come, O Come, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

Jesus teaches us his ways of holy peace. As we learn from him, let us walk in his paths. Let us give generously of ourselves and our resources for the peacemaking work of our church in this community and in the world.

Offertory Prayer:

As we present our tithes and offerings on this first Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for the gifts you bestow upon us especially the gift of Jesus. May you bless these offerings and multiply them as we strive to do the work of your kingdom here on earth. May our work bring about peace and love to all. This we pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Music Suggestions (Traditional):

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (Waltham)

UMH # 140 - Great is Thy Faithfulness

UMH #377 - It Is Well With My Soul

MVPC #250 – De Paz Inundada mi Senda

UMH #218 - It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

UMH #431 - Let There Be Peace on Earth

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

Glory (Let There Be Peace) – CCLI #7071972

Peace Be Still – CCLI #7084363

Mary Did You Know – CCLI #839225

Al María sabías que (Mary Did You Know, Spanish trans.) – Tercer Cielo

I is Well – CCLI #355008

Peace on Earth – CCLI #7164738



Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Advent Candle Lighting Reading

Reader 1: Today marks the beginning of Advent, the beginning of a season of anticipation, expectation, and preparation. We live in a time in which we see peace as something far off, something that will come one day. What if peace were possible today? What would the world look like if peace were part of our lives in this season, for us as individuals, as a congregation, as a community, as the world?

Reader 2: The lighting of the candles during Advent has served as a way of anticipating the birth of Christ. This year, let us think of them as lighting our paths to Christ. What do we need in order to live out a life where we take seriously Christ's incarnation – his taking on our human existence?

Reader 1: Today we light this candle of peace as we anticipate peace in our lives today, in this season, and with Christ. May this light shine and guide us to a more peaceful place in our hearts and in our living.

Light the first candle.

Reader 2: Let us pray:

Holy God, you are the great giver of peace, the one who calms the storms of our lives, and who holds us in all things. We pray for your light to guide us on a more peaceful path, even when it does not feel possible. As we draw closer to the incarnate God, we pray that you would give us eyes to see your presence and possibility in our midst. Guide us through this journey Lord, as we follow you. In the name of Jesus the Incarnate God we pray. Amen.

Note: You may choose to make the closing prayer a unison prayer.



Week 2 Worship Resources: Hope Made Possible | Isaiah 11:1-10

Call to Worship:

This is a time for resting in God's presence.

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, rest on us.

This is a time for being shaped as followers of Jesus.

Spirit of counsel and might, rest on us.

This is a time for releasing what holds us back.

Spirit of knowledge and awe, rest on us.

ALL: God, as we attend to you, fill us with hope.

Unison Prayer:

Dear God, the world feels overwhelming at times. Pain, violence, and hatred are easy to see and cloud our vision.

Restore our sight, O God, to witness the hope you have promised. Renew our hearts to trust you more fully. Inspire us anew this day. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

This is a season of expecting and anticipating. One of the ways we do that is by living hope-filled lives, lives that give the people around us reason to hope too. Let us give today with hopeful anticipation of all that God can and will do with our offerings!

Offertory Prayer:

We humbly lift up our offerings on this second Sunday of Advent, seeking your blessing upon them for multiplication and guidance for faithful stewardship. Bless us the givers as well as those who will receive. Surround us with the hope of this Advent season, we pray in Jesus' holy name. Amen.



Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #368 - My Hope is Built
UMH #196 - Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
MVPC #82 – Ven, Jesús muy esperado
UMH #178 - Hope of the World
UMH #230 - O Little Town of Bethlehem
MVPC #94 – Oh, pueblecito de Belén

Hope Has a Name – CCLI #7084823
Sing We the Song of Emmanuel – CCLI #7078042
Hope of Israel – CCLI #7139739
When Hope Came Down – CCLI #6516129
Here Comes Heaven – CCLI #7103161/Viene el Cielo –
CCLI #7118345
W & S #3060 - Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child
W & S #3051 - A Star Shone Bright (O Waly Waly)

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

W & S #3105 - In Christ Alone/Sólo en Jesús CCLI
#5917059

Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Advent Candle Lighting Reading

Reader 1: In so many ways, the world can feel entirely hopeless. It is as though bad news seems to lie around every turn. How can we ever begin to right the world once more? How can we begin to believe that the kingdom of God is possible in the here and now, that what we do makes a difference when there is still so much brokenness and suffering in our world? So often, hope feels impossible. And yet, this season is all about anticipating the hope that surpasses all other hope. What if hope were possible?

Reader 2: Today we light the candle of hope. We anticipate Christ Incarnate, Jesus among us, will guide us in every aspect of our lives, even in the most hopeless of places. We light this candle to declare that we expect hope to show up. As we add hope to our journey, we remember that Christ is coming.

Light the first and second candles.



Reader 2: Let us pray:

Holy God, we confess that we are not always the most hopeful people, and that we often find ourselves wanting to give up hope in this life. Please Lord, remind us of your ever-present hope and that you will keep showing up, even in hopeless spaces. Remind us again of your presence, and of your deep love for us. Give us once again the strength to remember you are with us in all things. Give us the strength to hope once more in your name. All of this we offer to you in the name of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Note: You may choose to make the closing prayer a unison prayer.



Week 3 Worship Resources: Joy Made Possible | Isaiah 35:1-10

Call to Worship:

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to praise.

Loving One, strengthen us and steady us.

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to pray.

Living One, say to the fearful parts of us, "Here I am."

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to sing.

Everlasting One, open our hearts, quench our thirst, and let us blossom.

ALL: God, as we attend to you, fill us with joy.

Unison Prayer:

Lord, thank you for surprising us with your joy! In the middle of our day-to-day chaos your care and grace find us just when we need it. Continue to transform us with your love, so that we can work on building your kin(g)dom more fully here with all we have and all we are. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

The gift of Jesus makes true joy possible. We have been invited to become co-creators of that joy for our world by using our blessings to bless others! Give today, that we might continue the work of healing, liberation, and abundance that Jesus began for us, in us, and through us.

Offertory Prayer:

God, we know you love a cheerful giver, so it is with the absolute joy of this Advent season that we offer our gifts back to you. Bless them and multiply them to extend our reach far and beyond our church and community, to serve your beloved children in all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #246 - Joy to the World
UMH #224 - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
UMH #617 - I Come with Joy
UMH #89 - Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee/MVPC #5 –
Jubilosos te adoramos
UMH #211 - O Come, O Come Emmanuel
UMH #715/716 - Rejoice, the Lord is King
UMH #249 - There's a Song in the Air
UMH #234 - O Come All Ye Faithful/ MVPC #106 –
Venid, Fieles todo

What Child is This (UMH 219)

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

House of the Lord – CCLI #7168995/ La Casa del Señor
(House of the Lord Spanish trans.) - Paul Wickham
Joy to the World/Unspeakable Joy – CCLI #5607039
W & S #3059 - Love Has Come
W&S #3057 Glory in the Highest/Gloria en las Alturas
Advent Hymn - CCLI #7071465

Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Advent Candle Lighting Reading

Reader 1: Often this season feels tinged with forced joy and merriment and that can leave us all feeling empty and disconnected. We can feel disconnected from each other and, more importantly, from God. Joy seems to be something that slips through our fingers as though it were water. What would it look like if our joy came from a deep place, where God dwells within us? Is it possible to be joyful in the midst of the world we live in? Can we trust that God will help us to feel and experience joy in this life?

Reader 2: Today we light the candle of joy in our journey toward the Incarnate Christ, God with us, Jesus. As we light this candle, we remember the joy with which Mary answered Gabriel, the joy that comes not from our circumstances, but from God who dwells with and within us. Today, joy joins hope and peace on this incredible journey of anticipating the arrival of the Incarnate God.

Light the first, second, and third candles.



Reader 2: Let us pray:

Holy God, you are full of delight and joy that runs deeper than anything we can imagine. You know how we struggle to find true joy in this world that we live in. Help us, Joyful One, to have eyes to be able to see the world as you do, to embrace the peace, hope, and joy that you have to offer us, and to open ourselves fully to your love. Strengthen us in the name of your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Note: You may choose to make the closing prayer a unison prayer.



Week 4 Worship Resources: Love Made Possible | Matthew 1:18-25

Call to Worship:

Come, worship our God who communicates in many ways!

Creator, we are ready to listen.

God guides us through Scripture, dreams, and conscience.

Jesus, we are ready to listen.

As God spoke in ages past, God speaks still.

Spirit, we are ready to listen.

ALL: God, as we attend to you, fill us with love.

Unison Prayer:

Caring One, in our doubts and fears you claim us as beloved. When life feels heavy you meet us where we are. Lord, help us to be bearers of your love in the world by affirming the worth of others. Inspire us to trust in what is possible, dwelling in each of us. May love be our guide. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

The radical love of God enabled Joseph and Mary to take risks for love's sake, risks that brought Jesus into the world. May we take the risky step of extravagant love today as we offer up our own our gifts so that the world can know him more and more.

Offertory Prayer:

Oh God of Love, we offer you our tithes and gifts in response to your love and grace. We pray your blessing upon these gifts as well as our efforts to serve you and your children with boundless love. Please grant us your blessing and grow what we give so that your kingdom on earth may be fulfilled through your love. We pray all this in the name of Jesus who taught us to love. Amen.



Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #217 - Away in a Manger
MVPC #93 – Venid Pastorcillos
UMH #408 - Gift of Love
UMH #242 - Love Came Down at Christmas
UMH #384 - Love Divine, All Love's Excelling
UMH #202 - People, Look East
TFWS #2097 - One Holy Night in Bethlehem

MVPC #94 – Oh Pueblecito de Belén
W & S #3059 - Love Has Come/Bring a Torch
UMH #172 - My Jesus, I Love Thee

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

How Deep the Father's Love For Us – CCLI #1558110/
Profundo es el amor de Dios – CCLI #5917035
God So Loved – CCLI #7169675/ Dios tanto amó (God So Loved Spanish trans) – Worship Together
Noel (Lauren Daigle)
All is Well – CCLI #355008
I Could Sing of Your Love Forever – CCLI #1043199
Adore – CCLI #7050417

Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Advent Candle Lighting Reading

Reader 1: Can you imagine the strength of love that it took for Joseph to believe Mary, to not end their engagement and to love both her and Jesus as deeply as he did? Can you imagine how deeply God loves us that God gave us the gift of God's very own self here on earth? Can you imagine the depth of love that God has for us as God seeks to meet us where we are, and as God forgives us of all the things we don't even know how to forgive ourselves for? What wondrous love is this, oh my soul, what wondrous love, indeed, does God have for us – for you.

Reader 2: Today we light our fourth candle in our journey to Emmanuel's birth. Today we light the candle of love, for without God's deep and unconditional love for us, peace, hope and joy would be impossible. But, we are reminded that through God who *is* Love, all things are possible.

Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles.



Reader 1: Let us pray:

Oh God of deepest love, thank you. Thank you for giving us countless examples of how fully we are loved. Thank you for loving us and helping us to love others. Lord, let us never forget this love. Help us to always see your love as a beacon, beckoning us closer to you. We ask this in the name of the one who shows us how to love, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Note: You may choose to make the closing prayer a unison prayer.



Christmas Eve: The Impossible Made Possible | Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Call to Worship:

We gather to worship God, who became human in Jesus.

Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.

The Christ child came into the world to give us forgiveness, salvation, wholeness.

Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.

The Christmas story invites us to share what we've been given.

Thank you, God, for your gifts of peace, hope, joy, and love!

ALL: Fill us with these gifts. Let us shine!

Unison Prayer:

O Lord, our Advent journey has inspired us and transformed us. You have shown us how you create amazing things from the ordinary. Stir up within us your peace, hope, joy, and love so the world can be changed into something we can't even imagine. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

God did not stay in the heavens. God does not float above us, removed and distant. God comes into the daily reality of our lives to transform them – and us – from the inside out. So, let us respond not just with words and warm feelings, but with our own tangible gifts. Let us respond with our hearts, our spirits, and our bodies – with all that we have. Let us continue to transform the real world around us with acts of love and generosity done in Jesus' holy name.

Offertory Prayer:

Thank you God for the precious gift of Jesus the Christ. Thank you for showing us all things are possible with you. With that knowledge, we thank you for the fruit that will come of the offerings we give to you now. We know that you will bless them, multiply them, and guide us in our using wisely all that we have. Thank you for your constant and unfailing love. In Jesus' precious name. Amen.



Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #239 - Silent Night/ MVPC #103 – Noche De Paz
UMH #220 - Angels From the Realms of Glory
UMH #223 - Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
UMH #228 - He Is Born
UMH #237 - Sing We Now of Christmas
UMH #238 - Angels We Have Heard On High/ MVPC #98
– Angeles Cantando Están
UMH #240 - Hark the Herald Angels Sing
O Holy Night (Adam) – CCLI #32015
TFWS #2093 - The Snow Lay on the Ground
TFWS #2098 - The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
TFWS #2099 - Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine
W & S #3064 - On Christmas Night

MVPC #89 - La Primera Navidad

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

W & S #3061 - See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw
W & S #3060 - Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child
He Shall Reign Forevermore – CCLI #7050416/ El
Reinará - CCLI #7145084
Noel (Lauren Daigle)
Light of the World – CCLI #7023299
Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground) – CCLI #5601640
What a Glorious Night – CCLI #7002651
Glory (Let there Be Peace) – CCLI #7071972
A Christmas Alleluia – CCLI #7050431

Preaching Resources | Additional Components:

Advent Candle Lighting Reading

Reader 1: Today is the day we have been waiting for- the day that Christ is born.

Reader 2: Today we light the Christ candle as a reminder that Christ's light is always shining within us. This light of all lights, the true light that illuminates all things, *this* is the light that dwells within us. It is what fuels our peace, our hope, our joy, and our love. It sustains us to be the people Christ calls us to be.

Light all the candles, including the center Christ candle.

Reader 1: Let us pray:

O Holy God, the one who is, who was and who is to come, thank you. Thank you for sending us Jesus, the one who is incarnate, the one who is with us in all things. Thank you for the peace that you give to us, the hope you instill in us, the joy that dwells in us, and the love that surpasses all things. Thank you for making the impossible possible and breathing new life into us. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

Note: You may choose to make the closing prayer a unison prayer.



Week 5 (Sunday After Christmas) Worship Resources: Love Made Possible Matthew 2:13-23

Call to Worship:

God is with us as a new year begins.

We bring our bright possibilities and lingering questions.

Like Mary and Joseph, may we trust God guiding us forward.

We bring open hearts and discerning minds.

Like God did for Jesus and his family, may God make a home for us.

We bring our relationships and stories, knowing God is in them.

ALL: Let's pay attention to where God is showing up!

Unison Prayer:

Lord, your guidance calls us out of comfortable spaces into the unknown. Those comfortable spaces seem safe, but you know they limit our possibility. Help us to trust in you, to seek you out, to turn to you in every moment with every thing. May you continue to come among us, shaking up our lives and shaking up the world. Amen.

Offering Introduction:

May we give our offerings today trusting that the God who has brought us this far will lead us into our future. May we give as a sign of our trust that the Holy Spirit is leading us to life, even when we are led to unknown and unexpected places. May we give confident that even when it seems unlikely, the humble Jesus of Nazareth can do wonders with our humble offerings too.

Offertory Prayer:

God of love and abundance, as we enter this new year full of possibilities and hope, we give you thanks. We lift up to you our offerings that you would bless them and increase them, so that the good news of Jesus Christ will be spread far and beyond this place. We pray this with committed and hopeful hearts in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.



Music Suggestions (Traditional):

UMH #251 - Go Tell It On the Mountain/MVPC #97 - Ve,
di en la Montaña

UMH #204 - Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH #214 - Savior of the Nations Come

UMH #467 - Trust and Obey

UMH #219 - What Child is This

UMH #224 - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

UMH #241 - That Boy-Child of Mary/ MVPC #105 –

Nochecita de Navidad

TFWS #2021 - What a Mighty God We Serve

Music Suggestions (Contemporary):

Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah) – CCLI #7163734

Here Comes Heaven – CCLI #7103161/ Ya no lloren mas
- CCLI #7118345

Hope Has a Name – CCLI #7163645

What a Beautiful Name – CCLI #7068424/ Hermoso

Nombre - CCLI #7077032

How Many Kings - CCLI #5351880