

ADVENT I 2019

HOPE

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

God of all hopefulness, keep us awake to your grace, ready to respond, willing to work with you, eyes shining with the light of hope.

Where there is the darkness of despair, let us shine the light of hope.

We light the candle of hope.

One candle lights the way to Bethlehem, the pathway of hope.

ADVENT II 2019

PEACE

"The wolf shall lie down with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid.....They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

God of peace, you have shared your vision of creation at peace, of earth immersed in your truth, humanity baptised with your Spirit.

Where there is the darkness of fear, let us shine the light of peace.

We light the candle of peace.

Two candles light the way to Bethlehem, the pathway of hope and peace.

ADVENT III 2019 **JOY**

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing."

God of joy, your prophet, Isaiah, sings your song of rejoicing, of gladness, of beauty. Your Son, Jesus, reaches out with healing, bringing joy to all whom he touched.

Where there is the darkness of sadness, let us shine the light of joy.

We light the candle of joy.

Three candles light the way to Bethlehem, the pathway of hope, peace and joy.

ADVENT IV 2019 **LOVE**

"Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel"

God of love, in your great compassion, you come close to us, one with us, Immanuel. Jesus, name above all names, reveals your nature in words and in life, responding with forgiveness and love, even on the cross - love without limits.

Where there is the darkness of hatred, let us shine the light of love.

We light the candle of love.

Four candles light the way to Bethlehem, the pathway of hope, peace, joy and love.

CHRISTMAS DAY 2019

"A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Four candles - light of hope, glow of peace, sparkle of joy, warmth of love - have led the way to Bethlehem.

We have travelled in their light.

We have arrived.

Great God of glory, we celebrate the birth of your Son this day.

You challenge us to share the candle-light every day.

You invite us to be living flames of love.

*We light the Christ candle, the candle at the centre of our wreath,
Christ the centre of our faith*

Glory to God in the highest heaven. Glory to God on earth.