

Week Four - Advent — Peace

This is the fourth time we are celebrating Advent. Do you remember why we are taking time to be together around our Advent wreath?

To remember that AAdvent is a time of preparation.

During these days we are getting our hearts ready for the coming of the Christ Child.

The first time we lit the candle of hope. We wait with hope for the day when we celebrate again the birth of Jesus. *(Light the first purple candle.)*

The second time we lit the candle of love to remind us that Jesus came to earth to show and tell us of God's love. *(Light the second purple candle.)*

We lit the third candle to remind us that the angels told the shepherds "good news that will bring great joy to all people." *(Light the pink candle.)*

Today, we light the candle of peace. *(Light the fourth purple candle).* Our world is not always a peaceful world. People sometimes hurt other people. But God promises peace. During Advent, we pray that we, as well as all people, will seek God's peace.

All Sing: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" or listen: <https://youtu.be/ifqYdqLJX9o>

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored:

Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the favored one.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail! the heaven born Prince of peace!
Hail! the Son of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die:

Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

When we look at the fourth candle, we remember that the angels told the shepherds about the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Luke 2:13-14: "Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.'"

Isaiah 9:6: "For a Child is born to us, a Son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

(Prayer): Thank you, Father, for sending your son, Jesus. Thank you for those in our world today who seek to act for peace. Help us look for ways to be peacemakers at home, at church and at school. AMEN.

Family Discussion:

What is peace?

How does Jesus bring peace to the world?

Who in our world to hear about God's peace?

What are our hopes for peace in our world today?