

Hope: An Advent & Christmas Journey

Advent/Christmas Liturgies and Song Selections

Nov 29-Dec 27, 2020

Date	Title	Candle	Scripture
Nov. 29 (Advent 1)	Heaven on Earth	Hope	Isaiah 9:6

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Into Mary's ordinary life, the angel broke, announcing something new, something that would change everything.

ALL: Into our lives, and into the world, God longs to come, bringing new life, bringing hope.

One: But there's so much to do, life is so busy.

ALL: And so much struggle in the world, so much hurt and pain.

One: Yet into the mess of the world, Jesus came, and into the mess of our lives, He still comes.

ALL: Let every heart, starting with mine, make room for the coming of Jesus this season.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal and ever-present God, we thank you for meeting us in worship today. Break into our hearts as we sing and pray and listen. Give us a fresh vision of hope, for weary hearts and a hurting world. Then, help us to not only wait for the hope that you will bring, but to dedicate our lives to offering that hope in tangible ways to those whose hearts you allow us to touch. We ask it all in the name of Jesus, the hope of the world. Amen.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, UMH 196
People, Look East, UMH 202
Toda La Tierra, UMH 210
O Come, O Come Emmanuel, UMH 211
Bread of the World, UMH 624 (Communion)
Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring, UMH 644
O Day of God, Draw Nigh, UMH 730
God Almighty, We are Waiting, W&S 3047
View the Present through the Promise, W&S 3048

CONTEMPORARY SONG SUGGESTIONS

- Living Hope <https://youtu.be/u-1fwZtKJSM> Phil Wickham
- Prince Of Peace <https://youtu.be/RjdaZlIXyEc> Michael W Smith
- For Unto Us a Child Is Born/Open the Eyes of My Heart <https://youtu.be/RjdaZlIXyEc> Paul Baloche
- "Light of the World" - Lauren Daigle
- "Defender" Upper Room
- Glory To The Highest, Bishop Noel Jones Presents The City of Refuge
- Jesus Oh What A Wonderful Child, The Walls Group

Date	Title	Candle	Scripture
Dec. 6 (Advent 2)	Forgiveness & Grace	Faith	Micah 5:2; Isaiah 61:1-2

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A story of love echoes through the generations. When life's challenges overwhelmed and uncertainty filled each day, this love story has been told to all who would listen.

ALL: Each day we hear a flood of messages which increase our confusion and frustration. So much noise. Too much noise. Stop!

One: God's love story announced Good News through the prophets: God's love is wide. God's forgiveness is deep.

ALL: Silence the fears and frustrations in my mind, so I may hear the truth of God's love story today.

OPENING PRAYER

All-powerful God, in these moments of worship lift us above the overwhelming noise around us and within. For too long, fear has gripped us and held us captive. Break the chains which limit us from living into the fullness of our grace. Through scripture, song and silence, remind us that your love story includes each of us and has room for those we encounter this week. Bring to life the words of your prophets from long ago and inspire our faith to believe where we have yet to see. We pray in the name of Jesus, the hope of the world. Amen.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

- For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, UMH 57
- Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, UMH 196
- Tell Out, My Soul, UMH 200
- Hail to the Lord's Anointed, UMH 203
- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, UMH 206
- Go Forth for God, UMH 670
- Shout to the Lord, FWS 2074
- The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve, FWS 2241
- Holy Spirit, Come to Us, FWS 2118
- Tradin' My Sorrows, W&S 3108
- Come, Now Is the Time to Worship, W&S 3176

CONTEMPORARY SONG SUGGESTIONS

- O Come to the Altar <https://youtu.be/ycWDFd0yCHA> Elevation Worship
- Waymaker https://youtu.be/SE_M9noEhNE Michael W Smith
- God With Us <https://youtu.be/0evTbghu7Rk> MercyMe
- Jesus Is the Reason For The Season, Kirk Franklin
- Everything, Tye Tribbett
- Special Gift, Walter Hawkins/Hawkins Family

Date	Title	Candle	Scripture
Dec 13 (Advent 3)	New Life in Christ	Joy	Luke 2:8-11

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 98:7-8)

One: Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

ALL: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

One: Come together, sisters and brothers in Christ, to fill the earth with songs of joy.

ALL: May our worship this day glorify the Lord, as we rejoice in God our Savior.

OPENING PRAYER

Joy-giving God, we come to worship You today. Help us to come as we are. If our hearts are already filled with joy, let us come with thanksgiving. If this week, or this month, has been "one of those," let us come to be renewed. If life is confusing, hard and hurtful, let us simply come to be held. However we come, may we meet you in these moments. We pray in the name of Jesus, who came so that we might know You. Amen.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

- Joy to the World, UMH
- All People That on Earth Do Dwell, UMH 75
- My Soul Gives Glory to My God, UMH 198
- Tell Out, My Soul, UMH 200
- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, UMH 216
- Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, UMH 224
- En El Frio Invernal (Cold December Flies Away), UMH 233

CONTEMPORARY SONG SUGGESTIONS

- Unspeakable Joy <https://youtu.be/tC3SwhJsLqU> Chris Tomlin
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King Of Heaven <https://youtu.be/o8SB1vjVhEA>, Paul Baloche
- In Christ Alone <https://youtu.be/PGKJ2JHT9dw> Passion
- "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" - King's Kaleidoscope
- "No one ever cared for me like Jesus"- Steffany Gretzinger
- My King, J.J. Hairston

Date	Title	Candle	Scripture
Dec. 20 (Advent 4)	Emmanuel	Peace	Matthew 1:23

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The struggle is real and confronts us in the international and local news, at the marketplace and in our own families.

ALL: Division and injustice spread easily. Distrust and insecurity form heavy layers of darkness.

One: Through this darkness, a light shines.

ALL: We are not alone. We have never been alone.

One: Peace in the midst of the storm. Light piercing the darkness.

ALL: Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Everlasting Father. Prince of Peace. God is with us.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we come today seeking peace. Our lives are hectic and harried. Our communities seem filled with bitterness and strife. Our world seems overcome with war and rumors of war. We ask that you would meet us here, speaking peace to our hearts. Fill us with the courage to work for peace in our homes, our neighborhoods and your world. Then, send us out as peacemakers, as we follow the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

- Hail to the Lord's Anointed, UMH 203
- Blessed be the God of Israel, UMH 209
- It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, UMH 218
- Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light, UMH 223
- Behold a Broken World, UMH 426
- For the Healing of the Nations, UMH 428
- A Star Shone Bright, W&S 3051
- Welcome to Our World, W&S 3067
- Here Is Peace, W&S 3123
- Come, Emmanuel, W&S 3130

CONTEMPORARY SONG SUGGESTIONS

- Glory (Let There Be Peace) https://youtu.be/7h2relyt_d8 Matt Maher
- Emmanuel <https://youtu.be/ctZxLRpMqFE> Hannah Kerr
- Emmanuel <https://youtu.be/Ngl dj5dthR8> Laura Story
- "When love was born"- Mark Shultz
- Emmanuel, Norman Hutchins

Date	Title	Candle	Scripture
Dec. 24	Claim the Christ	Christ	Luke 2:14

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 98)

One: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

ALL: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

One: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

ALL: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

One: Christ is born today!

ALL: Repeat the sounding joy!

OPENING PRAYER

ALL: When all things in silence lay, and the night was in the midst of her course, your Word leaped down from your royal throne, O God. So we rejoice and give you praise, that your Word may live in us, and that we may glorify you for ever. Amen. *(based on Wisdom of Solomon 18:14, Orthodox liturgy, published in The Book of a Thousand Prayers, © 1996, 2002 by Angela Ashwin)*

OR

ALL: No matter what gifts we may receive, they all pale in comparison to the gift of Jesus. In one tiny little package, You gave the world everything that it needed. And You gave us peace, hope, love and joy. Tonight, we come, to kneel at the manger, and to celebrate the best gift ever. Meet us here in these holy moments. In Christ we pray. Amen.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

- O Come, All Ye Faithful, UMH 234
- While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, UMH 236
- Angels, We Have Heard on High, UMH 238
- Silent Night, UMH 239
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, UMH 240
- Once in Royal David's City
- Go, Tell it on the Mountain, UMH 251
- God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, W&S 3052
- Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child, W&S 3060
- On Christmas Night, W&S 3064

CONTEMPORARY SONG SUGGESTIONS

- Oh What a Glorious Night <https://youtu.be/6aGLV5CfoTU> Sidewalk Prophets
- Arrival <https://youtu.be/b-MwUA8Kbo4> Hillsong Worship
- Make Room <https://youtu.be/uYHpJnfy2lQ> Casting Crowns
- Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy), Chris Tomlin
- "The Night before Christmas"- Brandon Heath
- "Light of the World"- Lauren Daigle

Date	Title	Candle	Scripture
Dec. 27	2021		Luke 12:22-34

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, shine, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. (Is. 60:1)

ALL: For unto us a child is born! (Is. 9:6)

One: This child grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and neighbors. (Luke 2:52)

ALL: We gather to worship and be transformed by His light and wisdom.

One: A page will soon be turned as we bring to close the unforgettable year of 2020.

ALL: With faith, we look forward to the coming year with great anticipation of God's work in our lives, our church and our world.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, through this past year, our world has been shaken, our perspective shattered, and our faith challenged in ways we could not have imagined. We confess our tendency toward fear, anxiety and worry which strangle the very hope we find in Jesus. In these moments of worship, open our ears to his teaching, our hearts to the Spirit's conviction, and our wills to your transformation. We pray in the name of the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, UMH 206

What Child Is This, UMH 219

In the Bleak Midwinter, UMH 221

Good Christian Friends Rejoice, UMH 224

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, UMH 229

I Know Whom I Have Believed, UMH 337

This Is a Day of New Beginnings, UMH 383

Be Thou My Vision, UMH 451

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition, UMH 607

CONTEMPORARY SONG SUGGESTIONS

- It's Christmas Medley <https://youtu.be/H0iFgc5GjwA> Chris Tomlin
- Glory To God <https://youtu.be/GyO46ff0Kml> Jeremy Riddle
- He Has Come For Us/God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman <https://youtu.be/42KD0EJi8ws> Meredith Andrews
- Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy), Chris Tomlin
- "You're not finished yet" The Belonging Co
- "Till I found you" - Phil Wickham
- "Oasis" Kalley
- Celebrate The King, Ricky Dillard
- We Lift Your Name, Todd Galberth
- Grateful, Hezekiah Walker