

FOLLOW THE STAR
Advent candle liturgy of the four directions

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First Sunday of Advent

These Advent candles remind us of the four directions, north, south, east, and west.

In each direction God's people, are seeking the Promised Messiah.

In each direction we discover God's blessings.

On this First Sunday of Advent, we look to the North.

In the North, the land grows dark at this time of year.

In the very north, the sunlight has disappeared until the earth turns again toward spring.

As we look north, we pray for all for whom this season is especially difficult.

For those who are lonely, for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

For those whose families or communities are in conflict,

For those who live with illness, or poverty,

for those who struggle with the darkness of depression.

For them, and for that place in all of us which struggles in darkness,

We light the first candle, and pray, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Come and save your people. Amen

Second Sunday of Advent

These Advent candles remind us of the four directions, north, south, east, and west.

In each direction God's people, are seeking the Promised Messiah.

In each direction we discover God's blessings.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we look to the South.

We look to the south and think of deserts that wait for rain

and wilderness places have little to sustain life.

In those barren places hope is alive with the beauty of a single blossom,

a moment of peace.

In the south, God promises the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom abundantly,

We shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

The prophet says to the people, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God."

As we light our second Advent candle, we look to the south.

We offer thanks to God for the gifts of the simple, barren places,

and pray for the coming of the Hope and Beauty of Christ. Amen

Third Sunday of Advent

These Advent candles remind us of the four directions, north, south, east, and west.

In each direction God's people, are seeking the Promised Messiah.

In each direction we discover God's blessings.

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we look to the West.

The sun travels across the sky and sets in glory in the West
promising a time of gentle sleep, reflection, and rest from our labor.

The West represents strength for the people of the future.

In Christ, we rise again, with renewed hope and energy.

We look to the West, with hopes and dreams that with the coming of Christ,
we will soon see the future God promises.

As we light the third candle of our Advent wreath, we offer thanks to God for the gifts of
the West, .and pray for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen

Fourth Sunday of Advent

These Advent candles remind us of the four directions, north, south, east, and west.

In each direction God's people, are seeking the Promised Messiah.

In each direction we discover God's blessings.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we look to the East.

The rising sun in the East announces the coming of a new day at dawn.

We eagerly wait and pray for Emmanuel, God with Us in Jesus.

We eagerly wait and pray for a new day dawning for God's people in the Church
and in the world.

When Matthew tells us that Wise Men from the East came to honor Jesus at his birth,
we understand that Christ came not only for one people, but for all the world.

We light this fourth candle because Christ is our Morning Star, our guiding light.

Christ leads us throughout the day and gives the hope of a new dawn.

Thank you, God, for the gifts of the East. Amen

Christmas Eve

These Advent candles remind us of the four directions, north, south, east, and west.

From every direction of the world,

God's people have been seeking the Promised Messiah.

Tonight, we celebrate! For unto us a Child is born. To the world a Child is given. Christ, our
Morning Star and Prince of Peace, is Light for the world.

Tonight we light this Christ Candle. From the light of this one life, all of God's Children
receive the Light and are blessed with saving grace and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen