

Let hope FLOW  
this Christmas



Candlelighting is a very traditional way to focus on our CWS partners through the Christmas Appeal through the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Day. You may like to lead the first prayer before lighting the candle. Invite someone to read the Partner Story.

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

On this first Sunday of Advent, we remember the hope we find in God, and the gifts of hope we offer to others.

[Read the Partner Story](#)

[Light the candle](#)

### Together:

God of hope and newness of life;  
May we notice the signs of your presence in  
all of creation.

Give us courage to offer hope to our world  
in word and in action.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

### Partner Story:

The Pacific Ocean links us with many people and lands who are facing the immediate effects of rising global temperatures. Already people have had to move from their traditional whenua or land. Others are trying to cope with salty water and the lack of drinking water.

The Pacific Conference of Churches has been relentless in voicing the cry of their people for climate justice. Like a canary in a mine, they have warned all people of the dangerous level of global warming in an effort to protect our common home for the unborn and future generations.

**Together we live with hope for the whole creation.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

### Partner Story:

Omar worries about having enough water for her family and animals. The Israeli authorities only allow her community to take

On this second Sunday of Advent, we remember the peace we find in God, and the gifts of peace we offer to others.

**Read the Partner Story**

**Light the candle**

**Together:**

God of peace and gentleness;  
May we be peacemakers so that all people have opportunities for fullness of life.  
Give us strength to offer peace to our world in word and in action.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

limited water from their wells on the West Bank, in the Occupied Palestine Territories. Like other Palestinian communities they have to purchase water because these authorities will not let them dig new wells, install rainwater tanks, repair leaky pipes or extend water infrastructure to other homes.

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees has had some success in negotiating water improvements with funds donated from overseas partners including CWS. In Gaza the water poverty is much worse. In this climate crisis, we stand with people in need of water justice.

**Together we join with others to make peace.**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**

On this third Sunday of Advent, we remember the joy we find in God, and the gifts of joy we offer to others.

**Read the Partner Story**

**Light the candle**

**Together:**

God of abundant joy  
May we be people who shine the light of joy in your world through our words and by our actions.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

**Partner Story:**

After a hurricane rocked her home in Nicaragua, Kelly was glad to receive food and water filters from CEPAD. The storm destroyed ten latrines in their community, polluting the river from where they source water.

CEPAD is supporting Community Development Committees to improve development opportunities for residents. By working in local communities, CEPAD enables people to find their own solutions to the challenges they face and prepare for droughts and hurricanes.

**Together we share joy when people have safe water.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we remember the love we find in God, and the gifts of love we offer to others.

[Read the Partner Story](#)

[Light the candle](#)

**Together:**

God of love and surprises;

May we love one another, embracing your generous spirit and ways of justice.

Give us perseverance to bring love to the world in word and in action.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

### Partner Story:

In September Luqman was marooned by the flood waters that covered one third of Pakistan. When the water rose too high, he sought safety with his mother in his great grandmother's house which was only partially flooded. The weather was hot and the water polluted. They could not cook their food properly. There was no school, no friends to play with and nowhere to go. Luqman's grandmother carefully rationed the fresh drinking water her brother delivered to the household.

In this climate crisis, we can support partners like Community World Service Asia with our gifts and prayers so they can help families recover.

**Together we share love with families facing the long term effects of flooding.**

## LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

On this Christmas Day, we celebrate the Christ-child amongst us, and the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love we offer to others.

[Read the Partner Story](#)

[Light the candle](#)

**Together:**

God of hope, peace, joy and love;

We celebrate your gifts of life and justice in Jesus' birth. Give us a sense of wonder and grace so that all people can rejoice in your transforming words and actions.

### Partner Story:

Caleb knows hope and hard work. He lost both his parents to AIDS and his sister to the typhoid she caught from the local spring. Now that his sister has gone, it is up to him to collect the water he and his grandmother need to survive. Caleb has his eyes on a new rainwater tank. His grandmother has been saving every penny she can spare so they can build their own water tank. Clean water will quench his thirst, save him from long treks to fetch water every day and prevent illness.

In this climate crisis, we are supporting partners like the Centre for Community Solidarity with our gifts and our prayers.

We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Together we share the hope, peace, joy  
and love we find in Christ.**