



Candelighting is a popular way to measure time through Advent. Light a candle on each of the four Sundays of Advent and on Christmas Day, remembering people who need food. There is a slide for each Sunday and an option for Christmas Day, depending on what works best for you. Special thanks to Rev Mark Gibson for writing the liturgy.

<p>LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE</p> <p>Read the Partner Story</p> <p>Light the candle</p> <p>As the koru unfurls and Advent begins, we light the candle of hope -</p> <p>hope for the healing of the Earth, hope for the hungry, hope for the poor, hope for those struggling to survive and live in dignity with few resources, hope that God’s newness will come. We light the Advent candle of hope.</p>	<p>Partner Story:</p> <p>In Sri Lanka, Somawathie grows food on her tiny farm – a few trees, mung beans, peanuts, eggplant and more. She must watch out for hungry wild elephants looking for food. Unless she can scare them away, they can eat and destroy her crops.</p> <p>Our partner MONLAR is helping small farmers like Somawathie. When she and her late husband could not afford to buy seeds and fertiliser, MONLAR taught them how to grow food at little cost. But now climate change is biting, and the elephants are coming more often, she is worried about the future.</p> <p>Small scale farmers and elephants need hope.</p>
<p>LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE</p> <p>Read the Partner Story</p> <p>Light the candle</p> <p>As kānuka come to bloom</p>	<p>Partner Story:</p> <p>In South Sudan a mother heard guns and fighting. She gathered her children and ran for her life. Now she works hard in her garden, grateful for the care and support she has found in Maridi. She is proud of her first crops and the promise of food for her family. The garden comes with the</p>

in this season of the flowering
we light the candle of peace.

As we prepare for the birth of the Peace Child,
may the flower of peace,
grow from the seed of justice,
in our lives and in God's hurting world.
We light the Advent candle of peace.

promise of peace in a region where conflict and hunger are spreading.

Our partner Mission for Sustainable Advancement is helping mothers with children begin a new life in Maridi. With tools, seeds, plants and training, displaced women will be able to feed themselves. Their children will be able to go to school.

Families displaced by violence and conflict need peace.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Read the Partner Story

Light the candle

In high summer
as korimako and tūī carol the dawn,
as bees swarm harakeke stalks
laden with nectar filled flowers,
and toetoe dance in the wind
we light the candle of joy.

May there be joy for the oppressed,
and joy for those bound by structures of injustice;
and may tears of mourning be turned,
to tears of celebration.
We light the Advent candle of joy.

Partner Story:

Sadly, hunger is normal in much of Haiti. Life is extremely difficult for everyone. Parents want to have enough food every day and offer their children a better future. A community oven in one rural community helps fund the local school and gives families the joy of eating fresh bread.

Our partner, ICKL brings together local community leaders and university researchers to share research and create local solutions for some of the most vulnerable people at its Popular University. ICKL provides teacher training support and classroom materials in three rural schools.

When very poor families have food to share, there is joy.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Read the Partner Story

Light the candle

As a summer solstice sun rises in the eastern sky,
as berries ripen,

Partner Story:

In Tonga, Kapiolani is a fan weaver and passionate home gardener. Her home is surrounded by vegetables, banana and breadfruit trees, pele and flowers, flourishing with the compost she learned to make at a workshop run by our partner. She knows she will improve her family's

<p>and the fragrance of mānuka blooms fill the warm air, we light the candle of love.</p> <p>May the fire and fragrance of God’s love, transform our world, so that the hungry are fed, so that the lowly are lifted up, so that all the community of life can flourish. We light the Advent candle of love.</p>	<p>livelihood by raising chickens in her new chicken house. With more training on climate change, she can help her community prepare for future disasters.</p> <p>Our partner Tonga Community Development Trust has been working through its local groups to help Tongans recover after last year’s eruption and tsunami. It is running psychosocial training so people can help those living with loss and trauma. After natural disasters, families need practical support and love.</p>
<p>LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE</p> <p>Read the Partner Story</p> <p>Light the candle</p> <p>As pōhutukawa and rātā bloom on hillside and seashore We light the Christ Candle.</p> <p>Christ, our fragrant summer flower, may your hope, peace, joy and love fill all our hillsides and seashores; may your light shine strongly in places of violence and injustice in our world, this day and every day. We light the Christ Candle.</p>	<p>Partner Story:</p> <p>In Poland, Irena, her two children and a friend share a meal, far from their home in Ukraine. They have found shelter, food and psychosocial support thanks to our partner, the Lutheran World Federation and local churches.</p> <p>In Gaza, churches offer food and shelter to some of the many people made hungry and homeless. Our partner the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees plans to distribute emergency relief and rebuild its Primary Health Clinics and Vocational Training Centres as soon it is safe.</p> <p>As a member of ACT Alliance – Action by Churches Together – we work together to provide practical help to people after disasters and in places of conflict.</p> <p>On this Christmas Day we celebrate the love we find in Christ with the world.</p>

Suggested hymns:

- Kauri, Flax & Rata Trees (Norman Brookes)
- Pohutakawa Promise (Norman Brookes)
- The Season of the Flowering (Bill Wallace)
- Carol Our Christmas (Shirley Murray & Colin Gibson)