

# Pieced-Together-Advent LITURGY

This is something my family started in 2020: The Year of Improvising—and will continue to build on, mess with, and collect from every year. Most of it will be familiar to you if you've observed Advent before and some of it will be new. I encourage you to use this however it is helpful to you and make it your own!

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

*Video:* Find the video on YouTube and watch it together. Invite discussion or leave it be, whatever seems fitting for your family. I use the videos as a way to call our attention and funnel us to each other.

*Prayer:* Each prayer begins by naming some part of God. We are pulling out particulars from the Universal Source and asking for God's help in staying present with that focus.

*Candle:* You can use any candles you have (you will need five total), but traditionally, you will have 3 purple, 1 rose, and 1 white. As you light the candle, read out loud the text for that candle and contemplate the places where the light overcomes darkness and illuminates God's Dream in the Christmas Story.

*Scripture:* Read from your preferred version.

*Nativity:* If you have a Nativity Set, you will place it out piece by piece as you approach Christmas. Each week we sing O Come, O Come, Emmanuel as we place the pieces for that week. Feel free to look up other verses to sing in addition or instead of. Or choose another song entirely that speaks to you and your family of the hope, faithfulness, joy, peace and love we bring into focus this season!

# 1ST SUNDAY (or Monday or Wednesday or Friday, as the case may be) - *Hope*

*Video:* Bible Project Advent Study **Hope**

*Prayer:* God who promises, help us to be present to your presence here. Help us to not exclude one moment from the infinite possibility you provide. Help us to consider all of it as part of the thing you are holding and healing in your capable hands.

*1st Candle* (purple): The light of the **prophets** cracks the dark with hope for God's Dream to come true.

*Scripture:* Isaiah 40:3-5, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:2

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*Nativity:* Stable

O come, o come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of god appear  
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, o Israel.

# 2ND SUNDAY - Faithfulness

*Video:* Bible Project Word Study **Emet - Faithful**

*Prayer:* God who stays, help us to be present to your presence here. Help us to trust your loving guidance in our reflection and to remember together the ways you have always been with us. Help us to see your love in places we may not have been able to before.

*2nd Candle (purple):* The light of Bethlehem cracks the dark with faithfulness to God's trustworthy Dream.

*Scripture:* Luke 2:1-7

*Nativity:* Mary & Joseph

O come, o come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of god appear  
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, o Israel.

# 3RD SUNDAY - *Joy*

*Video:* Bible Project Advent Study **Chara - Joy**

*Prayer:* God who celebrates, help us to be present to your presence here. Help us to acknowledge where we feel afraid and receive your kindness there. Remind us we are free to rejoice however it looks right now in love that holds dark and light together.

*3rd Candle (rose):* The light of the **shepherds** crack the dark with joy in God's good and beautiful Dream.

*Scripture:* Luke 1:46-47, Luke 2:8-10

*Nativity:* Shepherd and Sheep

O come, o come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of god appear  
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, o Israel.

# 4TH SUNDAY - *Peace*

*Video:* Bible Project Word Study: **Shalom - Peace**

*Prayer:* God who comforts, help us to be present to your presence here. Help us to find names for the rubble we stumble over and trust in your restoration. Show us where the rest is under all of the unrest. Remind us of what is whole when all we see are pieces. Give us your peace, which is active and full.

*4th Candle* (purple): The light of the **angels** cracks the dark with peace over God's restful Dream.

*Scripture:* Luke 2:15-20

*Nativity:* Angel

O come, o come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of god appear  
Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, o Israel.

# CHRISTMAS EVE - *Love*

*We do this in the evening and let the candles be the only source of light.*

*Video:* Bible Project Advent Study: **Agape - Love**

*Prayer:* God with us, help us to be present with your presence here. We wait in hope, persist in faithfulness, delight in joy, and rest in peace, empowered by your all-powerful Love. Your love lights up the darkest parts in ourselves and in the world. Thank you for the gift of you.

*Center Candle* (white): Christ is the Light which shines in the darkness.

*Light Handheld Candles* Light your handheld candles from the Christ Candle; the light of the world.

*Scripture:* John 1:1-5

*Nativity:* Baby Jesus

*Before Extinguishing Candles*

Silent night, holy night

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin, mother and  
child

Holy infant so tender and mild

Sleep in heavenly peace

Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night

Shepherds quake at the sight

Glories stream from heaven  
afar

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia

Christ the Savior is born

Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night

Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy  
face

With the dawn of redeeming  
grace

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

## CHRISTMAS DAY

*Nativity:* Wise Men (*sing O Come Immanuel*)