

TOWARD THE
APPROACHING LIGHT

December 03 | The First Sunday of Advent

You, Lord, are our Father.

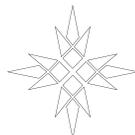
*We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*

LIGHT The first Advent candle

READ Isaiah 64:1-11

ASK What things can you do with clay?
Where is God working on you?

PRAY Creator of the world,
you are the potter, we are the clay,
and you form us in your image.
Shape our spirits
by Christ's transforming power,
that as one people
we may live out
your compassion and justice,
whole and sound in the realm of your peace.
AMEN!



December 10 | The Second Sunday of Advent

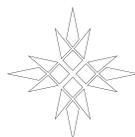
*In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God...
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed
and all people will see it together.*

LIGHT The first two Advent candles

READ Isaiah 40:1-11

ASK What do roads and highways let us do?
Where do you see God moving near you?

PRAY God of hope,
you call us from the exile of our sin
with the good news of restoration;
you build a highway through the wilderness;
you come to us and bring us home.
Comfort us with the expectation
of your saving power, made known to us
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN!



December 17 | The Third Sunday of Advent

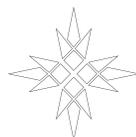
*They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.*

LIGHT The first three Advent candles

READ Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

ASK What do trees and cities have in common?
Where has God planted you?
What renewal/restoration is needed there?

PRAY Merciful God of peace,
your work, spoken by the prophets,
restores your people's life and hope.
Fill our hearts with the joy of
your saving grace, that we may hold fast to
your great goodness & in our lives proclaim
your justice in all the world.
AMEN!



December 24 | The Fourth Sunday of Advent

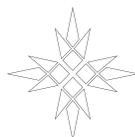
*God has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
but has scattered those who are proud...
God has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
God has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.*

LIGHT The first four Advent candles

READ Luke 1:46-55

ASK What does it feel like to be surprised?
Where has God surprised you?

PRAY Ever faithful God,
through prophets and angels, you promised
to raise up a holy child who would establish
a household of peace and justice.
Open our hearts to receive your Son,
that we may open our doors to welcome
all people as sisters and brothers,
and establish your household in our time.
AMEN!



December 25 | Christmas Day

*Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem!*

READ Isaiah 52:7-10

ASK What is the happiest song you know?
Where do you find joy?
Today, how can you thank God
for these good gifts of joy in your life?

PRAY God,
you spoke and your Word became flesh,
breathing a new song
of joy and praise into the world.
Grant that we may bear the
good news of your salvation,
proclaiming your promise of peace
to the ends of the earth.
AMEN!

