Lighting of the Advent Candles

Lighting the Advent candles during worship in the weeks before Christmas is a spiritual practice that can help us prepare our hearts. The four candles focus our attention on the blessings that precede Christ’s birth.

The first candle is called the hope candle. It reminds us that the hope we have today exists because God came to us in human form 2,000 years ago.

The second candle of Advent is the peace candle. It reminds us of the peace we can have when we live a Christ-centered life.

The third candle of Advent is called the joy candle. Joy has its root in the hope and peace we find in living a Christ-centered life.

The fourth candle of Advent is the love candle. We light the candle of love last to remind us that hope, peace and joy are the precursors to loving. That love originates with God and then infuses our individual lives. This, in turn, gives us the desire to share love with God’s world, God’s people and ultimately give love back to God.

The final candle is the Christ candle. It sits in the center of the other candles because hope, peace, joy and love all come from Jesus.

Advent provides several weeks for us to think about and prepare for celebrating Christ’s birth, and to remember that the true meaning of Advent is living a Christ-centered life that will bring hope, peace, joy and love to a hurting world.

Adapted from: [https://pres-outlook.org/2019/12/lighting-the-advent-candles/](https://pres-outlook.org/2019/12/lighting-the-advent-candles/)