



Soon and Very Soon: Advent Candle Lighting

Liturgies on Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
(on the Revised Common Lectionary for Year A)

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First Sunday of Advent

One: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to wake from sleep.

All: *Today we throw off the bedcovers of despair.*

We rise from the nightmare of cynicism.

One: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.

All: *Soon—yes, very soon—our hope will shine as bright as the sun,
and we will live in the light of God who is already with us.*

One: Our hope burns and cannot be extinguished.

(The first Advent candle is lit.)

Second Sunday of Advent

One: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to expect God's justice.

All: Today we bless the root that is already blooming for the harvest.

We welcome the child that is already prophesying to the nations.

One: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.

All: *Soon—yes, very soon—peace will not be a process painted with bloodshed.
The poor will be fed, the persecuted will be relieved, the vulnerable
will be sheltered, and all people will flourish together.*

One: God's peace outshines every fear.

(The second Advent candle is lit.)

Third Sunday of Advent

- One: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to release our weariness.
All: Listen: the dry desert is singing! Look: the cool springs are overflowing!
One: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.
All: Soon—yes, very soon—our joy will know no end. We will join the heavens in praising God. We will carry good news through the world like the wind.
We will be glad in one another's presence.
One: All creation radiates with God's joy.
(The third Advent candle is lit.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- One: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to believe God's signs.
All: Today we stand firm in revoking evil, its scorn of life, and its appetite for tears. We hold fast to God's signs of all that is good and eternal.
One: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.
All: Soon—yes, very soon—love will restore and heal the world. God's ways will be sweet to all who travel upon them; God's name be like honey.
One: The love by which God delivers us already burns within us.
(The fourth Advent candle is lit.)

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

- One: You know what time it is! The light has come, the sign has been given, God's realm is at hand!
All: Today a child has been born. Today the yoke of oppression is burned. Today the boots and flags of war are thrown away and forgotten.
One: The hour is here, and it will not depart.
All: We lift up our voices with new song! We swaddle our hearts in God's grace and peace. Now God's glory is our beacon, and God's love is our charge!
One: Glory to God in the highest!
(The Christ candle is lit.)