



Ladies Advent Candle Light Communion Service

Goals:

- Intergenerational:** Program that includes all ages of females in program as well as guest
- Children:** Storytelling time with “Grandmother”
- Worship:** Advent service, Communion
- Mission:** Visibility of giving monetary donation to community charities (Recipients need to be invited)
- Entertainment:** Dessert, Christmas Tree decoration, Contest to see who has best decorated table: Could use several categories: Secular, Nativity, Funny, etc
- Day:** Weekday evening. Reduces the competition for weekend events during the busy Advent/Christmas season
Hold event same time each year so it becomes a tradition
- Time:** 6pm-7:30 Allows young girls to attend on a school night

Program Components:

1. Dessert or finger food
2. Story time
3. Advent candle narration/lighting of the Christmas tree
4. Time of sharing
5. Singing of carols
6. Offering/Presentation of gifts to chosen Community Charities
7. Message by speaker
8. Communion
9. Closing with Silent Night and lighted candles

Format

Hostesses invite friends/family

Hostesses decorate tables

Some may wish to bring their own Christmas china...or festive paper plates

Decorations: Overall Christmas theme.

Undecorated Christmas tree

White lights are arranged so they can come on in four parts starting with the bottom to the top

Christmas tree is decorated during the ceremony of advent candles; tables are selected after each reading to take their decorations or extra decorations passed around by youth. As the decorations are put on tree, that level of lights is turned on

Tables decorated by board to hold desserts/beverages

Committees: Program Chair
Budget
Decorations
Sign-up
Publicity
Facility/logistics
Speaker
Music
Printing of program
Set-up/clean-up
Contest for best table decoration/rules, prizes

Participants: 1.Speaker: Female/female pastor/intern
2.Readers for the four advent candles: Love, Joy, Hope, Peace
(Great opportunity to have girls of any age who can read
3.Pianist/Organist to play carols
4.Narrator: Young mom/mother and daughter/mother, daughter,
grandmother
5.Young girls to act as greeters, pass out Christmas tree
decorations to those who didn't bring any
6.“Grandmother” type to read story to children
7. Clean-up crew

6:00-6:30 Event begins with potluck dessert.

6:20-6:25 Welcome and introduction of board by board chair

6:25-6:30 Opening Prayer

6:30-6:40 Announcement of children's story by:_____

After our prayer we would like all our children to immediately come up and gather around grandmother _____. She has a very special story for you. Following story time, we will begin our advent program with _____ narrating.

Notice after the singing of each Christmas carol, there is a time for sharing. You will have approximate 8 minutes for you to share your experiences concerning the question you see printed on the bright folded sheets of paper. The more in-depth questions in your program can be used if you have time leftover. Be sure to

keep your first response brief so everyone around the table will have a chance to share. When you hear the narrator say, “The Lord be with you”. We would like you to respond, “And also with you.” The narrator will then immediately begin telling us about the next candle as that advent candle is lit. The Lord be with you. Let us pray.

Prayer: 'Father in Heaven, ... increase our longing for Christ our Savior and increase our desire to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.' Amen.

It is story time, children. Come on up and gather around Grandmother Verna for a very special story.

Story Time With Grandmother _____: The Story of the Trees (or story of your choice, i.e. “The Littlest Angel”

Narrator: _____

Advent is a term from the Latin Word, “Adventus” meaning “Arrival” Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to the 30th of November and ends at midnight December 25th. During this time, we celebrate the arrival of the Lord through His Son, Jesus Christ. It is a time to celebrate the light Jesus brought to a world of darkness. It is a time of preparing our hearts to celebrate His arrival, to prepare our hearts and our homes for Christmas. It is also a time to look forward to Jesus second coming.



The Advent Wreath is a widely recognized symbol of Advent. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God, of His gift of life everlasting, His endless mercy, and love, which has no end.

The candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through His son, Jesus Christ.

The Advent Candle of Hope: (teen) (another person lights candle)

The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Others consider the candle to be a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle.

Together we read:

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:2-3

Together We Pray

"Almighty God, We place all our trust and hope in you. We pray that you will send your son Jesus Christ into our lives, to guide and protect us through difficult times."

O Come, O Come Immanuel

**“Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel!
Shall come to you, O Israel”**

A Time For Sharing:

Share either a time when you have felt hopeless at Christmas time or when someone or something has given you a reason to feel hopeful.

The Lord Be With You

The Advent Candle of Love: Jessica & Rosalinda Jones (Young sisters)

The second candle is called the candle of love, The Christmas season is an expression of the love that God has for humanity. Jesus is the highest and greatest expression of the love God has for us. We are reminded to show that love to the world around us.

Together we read:

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:4

Together We Pray

"Almighty God, We place all our trust and hope in you. We pray that you will send your son Jesus Christ into our lives, to guide and protect us through difficult times."

"Lord of all love and grace, you loved us so much that you gave your only Son. How matchless, how pure, how selfless is your love. Let my love for you be reflected in the love I show others as I wait for His coming."

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed. The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

A Time For Sharing:

Who do you know who may be lost, alone or homeless and may need your love? How will you show it? When will you start?

The Lord Be With You

The Advent Candle of Joy: Abigail Strom

The third candle indicates that the only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last.

Together we read:

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:10

Together We Pray

"Almighty God, We place all our trust and hope in you. We pray that you will send your son Jesus Christ into our lives, to guide and protect us through difficult times."

"Lord of all love and grace, you loved us so much that you gave your only Son. How matchless, how pure, how selfless is your love. Let my love for you be reflected in the love I show others as I wait for His coming.

"God of joy and happiness, You brought us great joy with the birth of Jesus, Help us to bring your joy to others."

Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let every heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

A Time For Sharing

Tell about a Christmas present that brought you great joy but cost very little in monetary terms.

The Lord Be With You

The Advent Candle of Peace: Isabella Ciccirelli

The fourth candle reminds us that Jesus comes to bring peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world.

Together we read:

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And His name will be called ;Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

Together We Pray

"Almighty God, We place all our trust and hope in you. We pray that you will send your son Jesus Christ into our lives, to guide and protect us through difficult times."

"Lord of all love and grace, you loved us so much that you gave your only Son. How matchless, how pure, how selfless is your love. Let my love for you be reflected in the love I show others as I wait for His coming. "

"God of joy and happiness, You brought us great joy with the birth of Jesus, Help us to bring your joy to others."

"Lord of peace, bring peace to our world, Lord of peace, bring peace to our community, Lord of peace, bring peace to our schools, Lord of peace, bring peace to my home, Lord of peace, bring peace to me.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled.
Joyful all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

A Time For Sharing:

Tell about a time when emotions were running high at a family gathering and you were able to restore peace and a sense of calm to the situation.

The Lord Be With You:

Offering

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16. No one can top that matchless gift. But we can give a small portion of the financial resources God has given us, so that the lives of others might not be so desperate this Advent Season.

Tonight all of our donations will go to our Good Samaritan Fund. That fund is used to help people pay utility bills, rent, those things we take for granted. Please put your donations in the baskets that have been placed on your table. Our board members will pick them up and bring them to the alter.

Also, our prayer team will be available to pray with you. They will be in our prayer room to my right at the close of our service.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, the word of God has penetrated our hearts and minds, so that we are challenged by Your ways and inspired by Your love. In return, we want to thankfully bring to You our gifts so that our brothers and sisters who need our help might find it within this community of faith. In the name of Him whose birth we celebrate, Jesus, we give and pray. Amen.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

Refrain

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light

Announcement of Recipients of Holiday Boutique Proceeds

Message: Female Intern?

Communion Female Intern (Elements could be passed out to tables to take together or everyone could be directed to the altar.)

Communion Blessing

Closing



We are his light. Let our light so shine for all the world to see.

**Explanation of Candles for Silent Night: Female Intern
Silent Night**

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 a far,
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 your holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus Lord at your birth.

Benediction: Leader. Intern

Receive the Benediction.

In all your Advent preparations, remain watchful with your eyes on Christ, whose birth in a manger is but a promise of His coming again in glory. And may the blessing of God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

C. Amen

Sharing Questions

Advent Candle of Hope

What are you hoping for this Christmas?

Advent Candle of Love

Who was your best friend growing up and why? If you are of school age, who is your best friend now and why?

Advent Candle of Joy

What was the best Christmas present you ever received?

Advent Candle of Peace

If someone said, “Do one thing to promote peace.” What would come to mind?