



## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

WRITTEN BY SARAH ARE

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*You are welcome to use or adapt this for your worship liturgy (with credit).*

*Feel free to adjust lines for different numbers of speakers.*

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### *First Week of Advent*

## **GOD'S PROMISED DAY CAN'T WAIT** (HOPE CAN'T WAIT)

**Voice A:** I will wait for coffee to brew.

**Voice B:** I will wait for traffic to clear.

**Voice A:** I will wait for fruit to ripen.

**Voice B:** I will wait for flowers to grow.

**Voice A:** I will wait for seasons to change.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the sun to rise.

**Voice A:** I will wait for you to say sorry.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the doctor to call.

**Voice A:** I will wait for the weekend to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for my baby's first words.

**Voice A:** I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for hope.

**Voice A:** I cannot wait for hope, because I want to live with hope—today and every day.

**Voice B:** I want to roll my sleeves up and get to work—living, serving, giving, and transforming with the hope of a better day.

**Voice A:** So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and as a prayer that we might stop waiting and start living, stop watching and start moving.

**Voice B:** May the light of this candle burn inside us this week—inspiring hope and action for God's promised day. Amen.



## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

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*Second Week of Advent*

### **REPENTANCE CAN'T WAIT** (PEACE CAN'T WAIT)

**Voice A:** I will wait for the sky to clear.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the plot to thicken.

**Voice A:** I will wait for vacation to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for snow to fall.

**Voice A:** I will wait for dinner to be ready.

**Voice B:** I will wait for you to be confident.

**Voice A:** I will wait for my child to walk.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the leaves to change.

**Voice A:** I will wait for the dust to settle.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the lab results.

**Voice A:** I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for peace.

**Voice A:** This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.

**Voice B:** I do not want to be a passive bystander in this division.

**Voice A:** We do not want to be passive bystanders in this division.

**Voice B:** So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder that we have a role to play.

**Voice A:** May the desire to sow peace kindle in us like a light in the darkness. Amen.



## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

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*Third Week of Advent*

### **DELIGHT CAN'T WAIT** (JOY CAN'T WAIT)

**Voice A:** I will wait for a promotion.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the sequel.

**Voice A:** I will wait for space to grow.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the phone to ring.

**Voice A:** I will wait for you to ask.

**Voice B:** I will wait for them to call my name.

**Voice A:** I will wait for the water to boil.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the text to come through.

**Voice A:** I will wait for the second season.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the beat to drop.

**Voice A:** I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for a lot of things, but I will no longer wait for joy.

**Voice A:** In a world where suffering and violence plague the news,  
I will choose to delight in that which is good.

**Voice B:** This week, we light the candle of joy to remind us that darkness does not have the last word. May this light guide and inspire us as we work to spread God's joy and delight through this world. Amen.



## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

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*Fourth Week of Advent*

### **COURAGE CAN'T WAIT** (LOVE CAN'T WAIT)

**Voice A:** I will wait for the DMV.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the right moment.

**Voice A:** I will wait for the fire to grow.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the popcorn to pop.

**Voice A:** I will wait for political reform.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the light to turn green.

**Voice A:** I will wait to leave a message at the beep.

**Voice B:** I will wait for my kids to come home.

**Voice A:** I will wait for the paint to dry.

**Voice B:** I will wait for the right words to say.

**Voice A:** I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

**Voice B:** I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for a chance to share love.

**Voice A:** The world needs love. We need love.

**Voice B:** So today we light the candle of love to remind us to spread love wherever we go.

May we be courageous enough to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.



## CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

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*Christmas Eve*

### WHAT CAN'T WAIT?

**Voice A:** This Advent, we have waited.

**Voice B:** We have waited for family to arrive.

**Voice A:** We have waited, singing, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

**Voice B:** We have waited for the casseroles to bake.

**Voice A:** We have waited for snow to fall.

**Voice B:** We have waited in department store lines.

**Voice A:** We have waited by fireplaces and around dinner tables.

**Voice B:** We have waited to raise our candles.

**Voice A:** We have waited to sing “Silent Night.”

**Voice B:** We have waited for the magic of this night.

**Voice A:** And now the wait is over. It is Christmas, which means God is here and you are loved.

**Voice B:** May that truth change you. May it inspire you, challenge you, and burn in you like the light from these candles.

**Voice A:** For tonight we light the candles of hope, peace, love, and joy to remind us of our journey to this space. And to those lights we add the Christ candle, for the wait is over.

**Voice B:** Love is here. Thanks be to God. Amen.