



CANDLELIGHTING WITH PARTNER STORIES

*Invite someone to read the partner story before lighting each candle.
Finish with the prayer.*

ADVENT ONE – HOPE

2 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from Tonga: For Climate Action

Climate Change is making storms more intense. Finau has lived many years on Tonga's 'Eua island, so when she says that Cyclone Gita was the worst she had experienced, it is the truth. The cyclone damaged the front of her home. Her husband is not well. Thankfully, the women in her local Ama Takiloa group have been a lifeline for her. They have repaired rainwater harvesting systems and are replanting community gardens so they will be able to eat traditional foods like taro again. **Be the Lifeline to communities facing the worst effects of climate change.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

For those whose dreams are squashed,
For those whose life is very hard,
For those who despair for the future,
We light the candle of hope.



Christian World Service
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Light the candle

You, Lord Jesus, are our hope, and the hope for our world.

May this light signal a breakthrough, a brighter future,

A new order and a better way.

ADVENT TWO – PEACE

9 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from Palestine: For Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Growing herbs has been a lifeline to Palestinians living in Aqaba village. Thanks to the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees, they have been able to build eight tunnel houses. Every 40 days they harvest a crop that they will dry and blend to make herbal tea bags. The tea bags are packaged for sale, but their machine is too old. They need a new one. The village is surrounded by arable land, but most of it is occupied by the military. Better teabag production will improve family incomes and security. **Be the lifeline to communities standing for peace.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

For those whose lives are disrupted by conflict,
For those whose lives are overwhelmed by despair,
For those whose daily lives are crushed by busyness,
We light the candle of peace.

Light the candle

You, Lord Jesus, give us the peace we all long for.

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A new order and a better way.

ADVENT THREE – JOY

16 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from South Sudan: For Zero Hunger

Until last year, Joyce ran a tiny stall at a local market. She would buy a bucket each of sorghum and peanuts to sell one cup at a time. Once she sold one bucket, she would buy another. The small profit she made for a day's labour kept her three children healthy. Her husband and father were killed in 2015 when their homes were attacked, part of South Sudan's bitter war. For her

Maridi Service Agency has been a lifeline. She attended a small business course last year and received money to invest. Her business has grown and she has food stored to use later when prices are higher. It is enough to pay school fees, medical expenses and live comfortably. **Be the Lifeline to families in need of food.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

For those who have no joy in their hearts,
For those whose lives are full of difficulty,
For those who are anxious and have no peace,
We light the candle of joy.

We remember also the voice of God's messengers calling us to be bearers of joy in a troubled world.

Light the candle.

You, Lord Jesus, are our joy, bring joy to the world.

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A new order and a better way.

ADVENT FOUR – LOVE

23 DECEMBER

Read the Partner Story from the South India: For Gender Equality

For years, most south Indian girls suffered in silence. Their brothers ate the best food, attended school and did fewer chores. When they grew up, the same patterns continued. It was not fair. The number of violent attacks on women are increasing. EKTA has been a lifeline to men and women wanting change. They do the research, educate men and women about gender, and run successful campaigns to stop discrimination based on gender and make the city of Madurai safer. Already they have lobbied local government to set up a desk at a major bus station to help children who are lost or in danger of being trafficked. **Be the Lifeline to women and men seeking safety and fairness.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

For those who look for love, but are abused,
For those who have lost family and friends,
For those who live where there is strife or war,
We light the candle of love.

Light the candle.

You, Lord Jesus, renew our love, and pour love into the world.

**May this light signal a breakthrough, a brighter future,
A new order and a better way.**

CHRISTMAS – CHRIST CANDLE

25 DECEMBER

Read the Partner Story from Haiti: For Reduced Inequalities

The hills are steep in Haiti. Most people in rural areas live on what they grow. They work hard for everything they have – knowing a hurricane or earthquake may destroy their homes and livelihoods. To own a donkey is a luxury – more often the people have to carry crops and food themselves. Like many of the world's 475 million small farmers, they know life could be easier. For now, they want their children to go to school. There is no government in their hills, so ICKL is the lifeline that supports the community to pay salaries and the running costs of their local schools. They are determined their children will have a fair go in life. **Be the Lifeline to people who do not want to be left behind.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

For those who are dismissive of babies and children and pregnant women,
For those who look for a saviour in all the wrong places,
For those who sit in darkness, longing for light,
We light the Christ candle.

Light the candle.

You, Lord Jesus, are our Saviour, and the Saviour of the world.

May this light signal a breakthrough, a brighter future,

A new order and a better way.

Thanks to Rev Clare Lind with the people of Tawa Union Church
in Wellington for preparing these resources.