



CANDLELIGHTING WITH PARTNER STORIES

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

ADVENT ONE – HOPE

3 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from the Philippines: Our story is one of local resilience

The memory of Typhoon Haiyan drives 74 year old Clarita who lives near the coast of Aklan province in the Philippines. In 2013, her house and crops were badly damaged. She wants to have a cushion against future calamities and make her community stronger. Together they have planted fruit trees and root crops, and started their very own farmers' market. In the face of climate change, they are preparing with hope for an uncertain future.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

In the lighting of this first Advent Candle of Hope we make space within ourselves to hear and engage with the voices of those we might otherwise miss but with whom we are connected by our common humanity.



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We remember also the voice of the prophets calling us to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.

Light the candle

**We light the candle for hope.
May it light the way for us
as we make hope our story.**

ADVENT TWO – PEACE

10 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from South India: Our story in our own words

Sujatha is now the *panchayat* (or local council) president. She has the skills she needs to make changes that improve the lives of her village in Tamil Nadu state in South India. As a Dalit and a woman she has worked hard to make the panchayat work for the poorest people and create hope for their future. Human Rights Foundation has trained her and others to exercise their political rights, standing up against those who try to take community land and resources.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

As John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea.
Calling the people to repent and be baptised with water.
The call continues to come to us in our day.
In hearing, let us turn toward God and neighbour
As ones baptised with water and the Holy Spirit.

In the lighting of this second Advent candle we make space within ourselves to hear and engage with the voices of those we might otherwise miss but with whom we are connected by our common humanity.
We remember also the voice of the prophets calling us to be bearers of peace in a troubled world.

Light the candle

**We light the candle of peace.
May it light the way for us
as we make hope our story.**

ADVENT THREE – JOY

17 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from Uganda: Our story is of water

Thanks to freshwater on tap, the lives of three HIV and AIDS orphans have been transformed in Southwest Uganda. Spared from long treks and early morning queues, they enjoy drinking

crystal clear water from their very own water tank. When everything is dry and dusty from another drought, there is nothing better than fresh water to drink. They have time to help their grandmother with gardening and chores, and go to school. The Centre for Community Solidarity channels hope through 25 local associations of people caring for the orphans of HIV and AIDS.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

In the lighting of this third Advent candle we make space within ourselves to hear and engage with the voices of those we might otherwise miss but with whom we are connected by our common humanity.

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

Light the candle.

**We light the candle of joy.
May it light the way for us
as we make hope our story.**

ADVENT FOUR – LOVE

24 DECEMBER

Read the Partner Story from the Pacific: Our story is more than survival

Pacific peoples look out on a sea that is creeping closer. King tides and salt water are claiming crops and safe water supplies. Changing weather is making life more hazardous – drought and then a cyclone in Tonga's Ha'apai Group and widespread destruction from Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. They plant coastal crops in an effort to halt the erosion and make plans to survive natural disaster. At every level, Pacific peoples are seeking allies in their campaign to stop global warming with its threats to their homes and their land. By doing all we can to stop the rising global temperature, we can share the hope of survival.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

In the lighting of this fourth Advent candle we make space within ourselves to hear and engage with the voices of those we might otherwise miss but with whom we are connected by our common humanity.

We remember also the voice of God's messenger – Mary, the mother of Jesus calling us to be bearers of love in a troubled world.

Light the candle.

**We light the candle of love.
May it light the way for us
as we make hope our story.**

Read the Partner Story from Lebanon: Our story is our future

In Lebanon, Syrian refugee students relish the opportunity to learn at the Sabra Centre. With their families, they have fled from war. Falling funding for refugee services and rising costs is making life harder. School is a welcome opportunity to learn skills that they can take with them no matter what the future. Older students can train in electronics and computer maintenance so that one day they can return home to bring hope to their shattered homeland.

Lighting the Christ Candle

In the lighting of this Christ Candle we make space within ourselves to hear and engage with the voices of those we might otherwise miss but with whom we are connected by our common humanity.

Light of Love, your moment has come. Into a world sorely in need of your light, you are born.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot put it out.

Light the candle.

We light the candle of love.
May it light the way for us
as we make hope our story.

Thanks to Rev Dr Mary Caygill, Methodist Presbyter for preparing these resources.