

CANDLELIGHTING WITH PARTNER STORIES



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

ADVENT ONE - HOPE

1 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from Uganda: Give Water, Give Life

Great Grandmother Farazia is 78 years old and lives in the dry south of Uganda. She saves every coin she can for a new rainwater tank. Every month she takes her money to the village caregivers meeting where it is recorded in her account. She can see the difference a tank makes to other families affected by HIV and AIDS like hers.

With a tank, her grandchildren will not have to walk for hours to collect water that needs to be filtered when they get home.

With clean water, they will be healthy and go to school every day. They will have energy for their chores and can grow better food. She wants this for her grandchildren. It is her prayer.

Their Need is Clear. Give Water, Give Life.



Christian World Service
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Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

Gracious God

For those, like Farazia, who dare to hope for a better way

We give you thanks

For those who are the bringers of light

We praise you

For the relentless pursuit of this hope

We light this candle

Amen.

ADVENT TWO – PEACE

8 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from India: Protect Water, Give Life

The sounds are loud on a South Indian beach. Fisherfolk spend their days mending nets, helping the boats come and go, gathering seafood and seaweed or making snacks to sell. There is much chatter, and the smell of fresh fish and the ocean is everywhere.

Further up the coast, there is only the sound of the sea lapping against an empty beach, home to a massive power plant where the people cannot go. Like Meenakshi, a seaweed diver, they want access to the sea that sustains their life. Working with Neythal, the fisherfolk are monitoring the coast so they can use the results as evidence in legal proceedings. They want to protect their homes and livelihoods for their children.

Protect water, give life.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Gracious God

For division, disunity, discouragement and despair

We turn to you to overcome

For those who seek justice and safety

We look to you to protect

For the relentless pursuit of your peace

We light this candle.

Amen.

ADVENT THREE – JOY

15 DECEMBER

Read Partner Story from Nicaragua: Recycle Water, Give Life

Miguel is proud of his garden, which now sustains his family in Nicaragua. He has lost many crops to drought and the family had one meal a day. "We had to ration food," he says.

He is glad to be part of an agricultural programme run by CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches. Installing a new irrigation system means he can grow more food and save the time it took to walk to the river. He has learned to use compost, mulch and all the grey water he can. The seeds and plants provide new vegetables and fruit. Always a very kind man, he is eager to share what he learns with others.

Years of poor harvests have left small farmers with no buffer against drought. They want to learn new farming skills and drink safe water.

Recycle water, give life.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

Gracious God

For foundations of joy and delight in the Lord

We give you thanks and praise

For situations where it is painful to rejoice

We ask for your wisdom

For the relentless pursuit of your joy

We light this candle.

Amen.

ADVENT FOUR – LOVE

22 DECEMBER

Read the Partner Story from Indonesia: Share Safe Water, Save Lives

Tanti remembers the fear she felt when an earthquake destroyed her home in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia last September. She hugged her mother and ran from the house. Later a devastating tsunami hit the coast. This double disaster destroyed water and sanitation systems leaving people thirsty and at risk of disease. Safe water was the top priority.

Tanti used to spend hours a day collecting water. Now thanks to ACT Alliance there is a water tap 10 metres from her temporary home. One year later most communities have new boreholes, managed by local committees thanks to ACT Alliance. Meeting the demand for water after a disaster is the beginning of recovery.

Share safe water, save lives.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Gracious God

For our brothers and sisters, battered by disaster

We ask for your protection

For those who are forgotten and in need of your healing touch

We hold them to your embrace

For the relentless pursuit of love

We light this candle.

Amen.

CHRISTMAS - CHRIST CANDLE

25 DECEMBER

Read the Partner Story from Palestine: Give Good Water, Give Life

It would not be Christmas without a baby! A young Palestinian mother wants her young son to have a good life despite the many hurdles he will face.

Clean, safe water is essential for baby's health, and in short supply. Families must buy safe water to drink. The lack of safe water threatens the health of many families.

For Syrian and Palestinian refugees access to primary healthcare for mothers and children up to age six is a special gift. Regular check ups and vaccinations with doctors and other medical staff make sure new babies get a good start to life. Free medical care and supplementary food at DSPR's primary health clinics make the difference for people facing an uncertain future.

Give good health, give life.

Lighting the Christ Candle

E te whānau, brothers and sisters,
Christ is born anew among us today!
Gracious God, on this most holy of days,
May Christ be our light.

For the life that was the light of all people

We light this candle.

Amen.

Thanks to Alice Bates, who this year completed the final year of her Bachelor of Theology degree. She has been a children's, youth and young adults' worker and administrator at St Michael's and All Angels Church, Christchurch and is currently travelling.