

**“Light of the World”  
An Advent Wreath Liturgy  
by Rev. Nate Melcher**

This Advent wreath liturgy is inspired by *Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine. Each reading features a chapter title from the book, as well as words or a paraphrase from a Biblical figure whose story is explored in the chapter. The candle names follow a traditional pattern: hope, peace, joy, and faith. It is free to use with citation (note if you adapt it, thanks): “© Rev. Nate Melcher, 2021. Used by permission.” If you find this liturgy helpful for worship or personal use, please let me know at [thelifemosaic.com](http://thelifemosaic.com). The chapters and corresponding Gospel texts are:

<b>Occasion</b>	<b><i>Light of the World</i> chapter title</b>	<b><i>Gospel Text</i></b>
Advent I	Chapter 1: The Meaning of Memory	Luke 1:5-25, 57-80
Advent II	Chapter 2: The Promise of Potential	Luke 1:26-56
Advent III	Chapter 3: The Journey to Joy	Luke 2:1-40
Advent IV	Chapter 4: The Gifts of the Gentiles	Matthew 1:18-2:15
Christmas Eve	N/A	Luke 2:1-14

### **Advent I**

The season of Advent bids us to wait;  
Our bodies are still, yet they reach out to the holy.

The priest Zechariah declares his prophecy:  
“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!  
For God has looked favorably upon  
God’s people and redeemed them!”  
It is a declaration bursting with the meaning of memory.  
It is a declaration for a people who find hope in God.  
In the stillness, in the waiting, God is in this.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Hope.  
The Light of Hope for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.  
May Hope burn bright in every corner of our lives. **Amen.**

### **Advent II**

The season of Advent bids us to sing;  
Our songs are quiet, yet they echo for an eternity.

The mother Mary sings her praise:  
“My soul magnifies the Lord!  
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for God has looked with favor on  
the most humble of servants.”  
It is a song bursting with the promise of potential.  
It is a song for a people who seek the peace of God.  
In the wind, in the grace notes, God is in this.

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Peace.  
The Light of Peace for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.  
May Peace burn bright in every corner of our lives. **Amen.**

### **Advent III**

The season of Advent bids us to gather;  
Our resolve may quake, yet we journey together.

The Shepherds rally their flocks:

“Let us go now!

Let us see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us!”

It is a rally beginning the journey to joy.

It is a rally for a people who find joy in God.

In the shuffling, in the wandering, God is in this.

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Joy.

The Light of Joy for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.

May Joy burn bright in every corner of our lives. **Amen.**

### **Advent IV**

The season of Advent bids us to give;

Our gifts are humble, yet the star burns bright.

The Wise witness their vision:

“The child is born king of the Jews!

We observe his star, we know its rising,  
we come to pay him homage!”

It is a witness of the gifts of the Gentiles.

It is a witness for a people who put faith in God.

In the wide skies, in the vast lands, God is in this.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Faith.

The Light of Faith for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.

May Faith burn bright in every corner of our lives. **Amen.**

### **Christmas Eve**

The season of Advent bids us to rejoice;

Our eyes shine bright and our core is warm.

The Angels herald a message for the world:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven!

And on earth, peace among  
the beloved children of God!”

It is a herald of the light of the world.

It is a herald for a people in need of the love of God.

In the manger then, in our homes now, God is in this.

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ Candle.

The Light of the World for you, for me, and for this beautiful, broken world.

May Light burn bright in every corner of our lives. **Amen.**