

Advent Resources

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Candle Lighting - Peace Prayers (2001)

Note: These prayers were a response to the violence erupting in our world and should be tailored to fit the context in which they are used.

Advent 1: Peace in our World

On this first Sunday of Advent, we pray for peace in our world.

Headlines from the news this week:

(add appropriate headlines)

Peacemaking God, we turn to you in prayer. The world around us trumpets violence and destruction. Nations know war all too well. Your invitation to carry an olive branch seems ludicrous as the call to arms is sounded. Help us to seek your reconciliation.

(Light one purple/blue candle)

Advent 2: Peace with the Earth

On this second Sunday of Advent, we pray for peace with the earth.

Headlines from the news this week:

(add appropriate headlines)

Peacemaking God, we turn to you in prayer. The earth groans under the weight of its human inhabitants. Our trail is too often measured by its destruction. The love you share for all of your creation atrophies in our hands. Help us to seek your harmony.

(Light two purple/blue candles)

Advent 3: Peace in our Relationships

On this third Sunday of Advent, we pray for peace in our relationships.

Headlines from the news this week:

(add appropriate headlines)

Peacemaking God, we turn to you in prayer. As families and friends gather for the holiday season, our collective stress level often reaches a tragic peak. Domestic violence and substance abuse are on the rise again this season. The very people we claim to love can at the same time be the source of our pain. Help us to seek your serenity.

(Light three purple/blue candles)

Advent 4: Peace within Ourselves

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we pray for peace within ourselves.

Headlines from the news this week:

(add appropriate headlines)

Peacemaking God, we turn to you in prayer. Caught in the frenetic holiday rush, a still small voice beckons from within. Our frantic pace belies the aimlessness that holds us hostage. Created for relationship, our isolation eats at the fabric of our being. Help us to seek your tranquility.

(Light four purple/blue candles)
