

Advent Wreath Lighting (5th Sunday in Advent)

Deacon: Leslie Belvin

Deacon: The **1st** candle of Advent reminds us the Christ of our **HOPE** was born...(light the **PINK** candle). The **2nd** candle of Advent reminds us that **PEACE** is a gift that we must prepare for... (light **1 Purple** candle). The **3rd** candle of Advent is the candle of **JOY**. It reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her a child who would save and deliver all who believe in Him by faith... (light **2nd Purple** candle). The **4th** candle of Advent is the candle of **LOVE**. Its light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for His children through faith in Jesus Christ... (light the **3rd remaining Purple** candle).

Deacon: A reading from the Gospel of Luke: “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn,” (Luke 2:1-7).

Congregation: We light the Christ Candle to remind us that the light of the world was born on Christmas Day. The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder. His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Light the 5th remaining candle of Advent... (WHITE candle)

All: Almighty God, You have made this day holy by the gift of Your Son, born of the Holy Spirit. Upon Him rested all Your grace, through Him has come all Your mercy. Let His light shine within our hearts today even more brightly than it shines from the candles before us. Empower us to hear Your word to celebrate Your everlasting love through the strong Name of Jesus Christ we pray. AMEN.

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