

The message of the four Sundays of Advent.

We celebrate Advent during the four Sundays before Christmas: Christ was promised, Christ was born, Christ comes again!

The lighting of the Advent candles became a trademark of the Advent Season for many. Advent worship and fellowship for millions of Christians, awaiting the celebration of the birth of Jesus, are associated with the candles lit on the four Sundays before Christmas.

We expect the coming of the light of God into our homes, our churches and most importantly, into our lives and innermost needs, desires, prayers and devotions during this Season. We expect and pray that darkness will flee from us, as Christ Jesus enters our lives, our church and our world in a very special way during Advent and Christmas!

Jesus called himself the light of the world!

The purpose of a light is to drive darkness away. And we battle with darkness every day. We need a Season where we light candles. *A Season when we are made aware of the need to drive the darkness away. Where we pray that Christ will come to a sad, frightened and lonely world.*

Particularly because we know that God's light has dawned. That Jesus came as the light of the world. *That Jesus was born to overcome darkness, hopelessness, conflict and loneliness. That he is Immanuel - God with us.*

So we light the Advent candles with enthusiasm. Because we pray that Jesus Christ will be revealed during this Season as the Sun of righteousness, as Redeemer who sets us free and as conqueror who defeats our enemies. Christ is the light for all humanity. His light shines from Bethlehem, through the ages through the worship and testimony of his followers. His light shines through his reflection in the face of his Church.

The Four Advent Sundays.

27 November - First Advent Sunday: We **light the candle of hope**, that the world may know that Jesus Christ is our hope and our future, and the remedy for any form of despondency.

4 December - Second Advent Sunday: **Light the candle of peace**, for Jesus said that the peacemakers will be blessed. Let the light of the unity and peace amongst God people bring hope to a world petrified by the warmongers we encounter every day.

11 December - Third Advent Sunday and Advent Communion: **Light the candle of joy!** Enjoy the Season with lots of cheer and happiness, because you know the Reason for the season. Because you stand in awe before the Light of the world.

18 December - Fourth Advent Sunday: **Light the candle of love!** Love one another, even as Christ loves us. Drive the dark loneliness and self doubt of this world away and affirm God's love for everyone. Cheer the world through loving the world!

Christ is the light for all humanity. Pray that Christ may reveal himself to all humanity during the Advent and Christmas seasons with the light that shines forth from Bethlehem - and is still reflected in the face of his Church.