

*Mt Vernon UMC*

*Christmas Eve*

# ADVENT CANDLE<sup>1</sup>

*Reader One:* Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

*Light the first Advent candle during this verse.*

**Hope, hope, hope, may Earth be filled with hope.  
The hope that fills the world with gladness,  
Taking away our tears of sadness.  
Hope, hope, hope, may Earth be filled with hope.**

*Light the second Advent candle during this verse.*

**Peace, peace, peace, may Earth be filled with peace.  
The peace of God which we are sharing,  
Showing the way our faith is caring.  
Peace, peace, peace, may Earth be filled with peace.**

*Light the pink Advent candle during this verse.*

**Joy, joy, joy, may Earth be filled with joy.  
The joy that fills our hearts with singing,  
praising the One our God is sending.  
Joy, joy, joy, may Earth be filled with joy.**

*Light the fourth Advent candle during this verse.*

**Love, love, love, may Earth be filled with love.  
The love of God that knows no ending,**

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<sup>1</sup> Text by Dr. Lisa Hancock. Copyright Discipleship Ministries.  
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**Blessings of love that God is bringing.  
Love, love, love, may Earth be filled with love.**

*Reader Two:* We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God's salvation wherever we go.

*Light the center candle of the Advent wreath.*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION**

**HYMN xxx**

**READING xxx**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

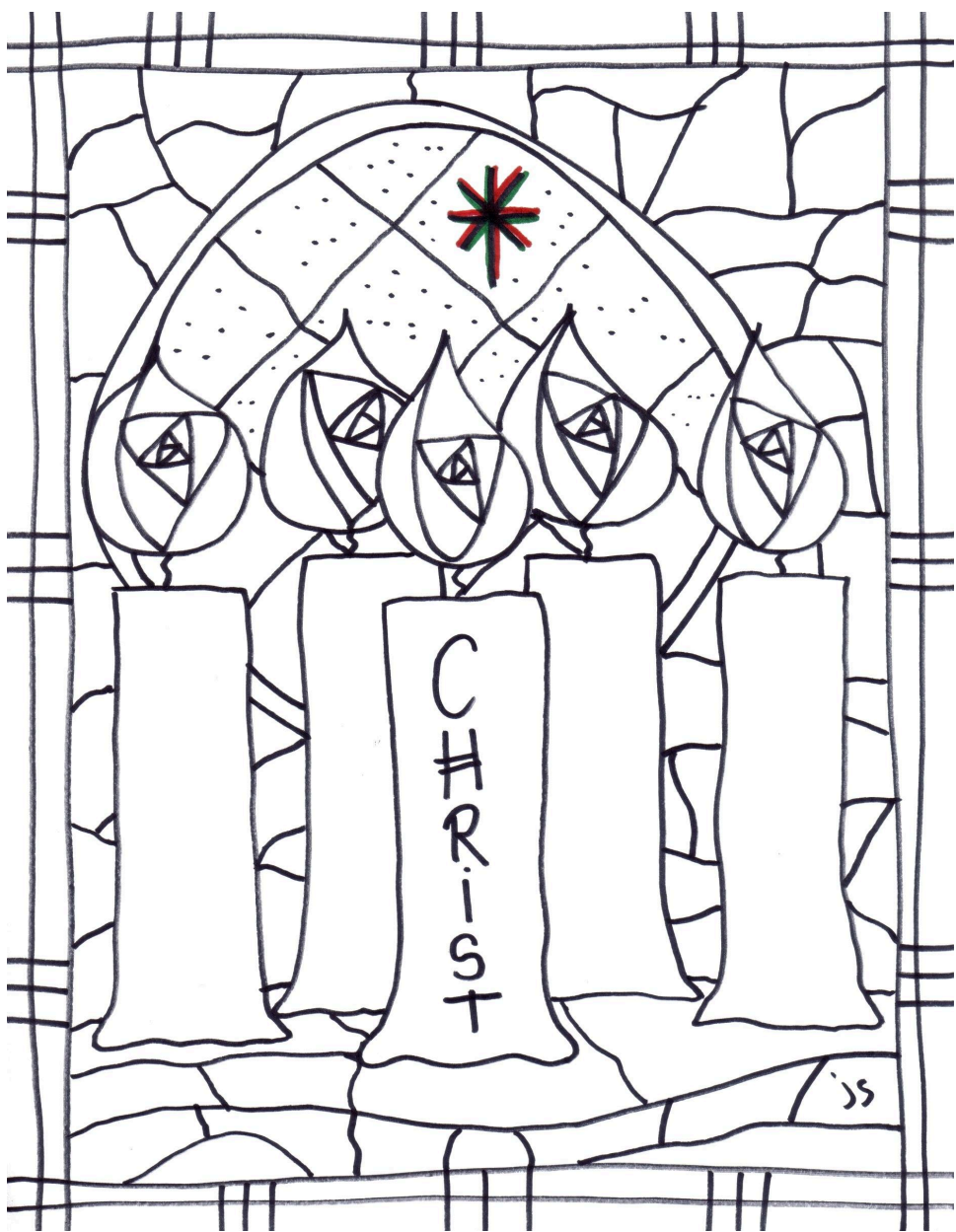
**Eternal God, we give you thanks  
for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ***SENDING FORTH***

**HYMN**

**Silent Night**



God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:

Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught

Learn together of God's love and grace

Serve others by using our God given gifts and talents

Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!.

To learn more, visit [facebook.com/MtVChamp](https://facebook.com/MtVChamp)

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob ([217-751-4400](tel:217-751-4400), [pastor@mtvernon-umc.org](mailto:pastor@mtvernon-umc.org)).