# Advent Candle Lighting: Bold Discipleship

# Abstract illustration of an Advent wreath: 3 blue candles and one pink one surrounded by green leaves.

Please adapt this liturgy to fit your context and to maximize voices. For instance, in a larger congregation you might want to have the scripture read from the lectern, Voice 2 from the Advent wreath, and the multiple voices coming from the congregation. For a smaller gathering, everyone could take part if they wish. Encourage readers to add their own dreams to the ones shared.

This liturgy also complements the Advent Unwrapped music video, [The Giver](https://youtu.be/dz-R_QX_pfE), on the United Church YouTube channel.

## Hope

Voice 1:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain, to the house of God, so that we can be taught God’s way and go on God’s path.” (*Isaiah 2:3‒5 paraphrase*)

Voice 2:

What do you hope for in the new world?

Multiple Voices:

I hope for a future that is more amazing than anything I could ever imagine.
I hope for the healing of creation.
I hope for good mental health and wellness.
I hope for a world where everyone seeks the good.

Voice 2:

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
where we can dare to hope boldly.

Voice 1:

May it be so.

Voice 2:

(*First Advent candle is lit.*)
Amen.

## Peace

Voice 1:

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.” (*Isaiah 11:6*)

Voice 2:

What does peace look like in the new world?

Multiple Voices:

Peace looks like a flowing river where every living thing has what that they need to flourish.
Peace looks like a place where those who are weak are not afraid of those who are strong.
Peace looks like good conversations around big tables.

Voice 2:

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
where we can boldly build a good life together.

Voice 1:

May it be so.

Voice 2:

(*Second Advent candle is lit.*)
Amen.

## Joy

Voice 1:

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.” (*Isaiah 35:1‒2*)

Voice 2:

What does joy feel like in the new world?

Multiple Voices:

Joy feels like everlasting love.
Joy feels like the freedom to be who God created me to be.
Joy feels like sharing love and kindness.
Joy feels like pride.

Voice 2:

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
where joy boldly bubbles up in unexpected places.

Voice 1:

May it be so.

Voice 2:

(*Third Advent candle is lit.*)
Amen.

## Love

Voice 1:

“Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” (*Luke 2:19*)

Voice 2:

What does love feel like in the new world?

Voice 1:

Love feels like knowing I am a sacred piece of a magnificent whole.
Love feels like acceptance and gratitude.
Love feels like being cherished.

Voice 2:

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
where you, and me, and all of God’s creation are treasured and beloved.

Voice 1:

May it be so.

Voice 2:

(*Fourth Advent candle is lit.*)
Amen.

## Christmas

Voice 1:

“Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.” (*Luke 2:10*)

Voice 2:

What gifts does Jesus bring to the new world?

Multiple Voices:

Jesus brings hope for the future,
peace like a river,
joy everlasting, and
love for all.

Voice 2:

Christmas is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
that we are boldly invited to create together
as followers of the Christ child.

Voice 1:

May it be so.

Voice 2:

(*Christ candle is lit.*)
Amen.