Peace themed
Advent candle-lighting liturgy

The lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath is a precious tradition for many. And, as our hearts naturally turn again to pray for the light of peace to enter the darkness of conflict at this time of year, we have written this candle-lighting liturgy to express our longing for the Prince of Peace Himself – and for true and just reconciliation in the lands and communities of the Middle East.

Preface: to introduce the lighting of the candle(s) each week
Advent is a season of mixed emotions. Celebration is never far away because we cannot forget that Jesus has already come to dwell with us. The Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, is here – with us always by His Spirit – enabling us to build more of His kingdom. But we relish anticipating the re-telling of Jesus’ birth as if we were still the people living in darkness Isaiah described; imagining ourselves alongside those who lived before His transforming presence walked among us. And the longing… that we don’t have to imagine; because we know we will not see the full extent of the peace on earth we long for – the end of all conflict and darkness – until He returns. So let’s voice this by joining with Embrace the Middle East to pray Peace be with us as we light our Advent wreath…

Advent Sunday
Precious Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace – source of all bright hope in darkness and struggle; as Abraham and Sarah longed for their promised son, so we ache for Your reconciling presence.
Our hearts break for all living in danger or fear, especially those in the midst of continuing conflict.
Come, Prince of Peace with Your world-changing light; we need You with us to end this long night.

Second Sunday in Advent
Precious Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace – source of all bright hope in darkness and struggle; as the prophets announced Your coming reign, so we proclaim your reconciling presence.
Many have lost sight of the worth of each refugee; strengthen us to speak up for the value of every life.
Come, Prince of Peace with Your world-changing light; we need You with us to end this long night.

Third Sunday in Advent
Precious Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace – source of all bright hope in darkness and struggle; as John prepared the way for your transforming word, so we ready ourselves for Your reconciling presence.
The workers are few in the face of great need; lead us to wholeheartedly welcome the least.
Come, Prince of Peace with Your world-changing light; we need You with us to end this long night.

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Precious Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace – source of all bright hope in darkness and struggle; as Mary risked losing everything to carry You, so we count all loss next to Your reconciling presence.
Move us to pray more faithfully for Your peace and give generously to help refugees and all in need.
Come Prince of Peace with Your world-changing light; we need You with us to end this long night.

Christmas Day
Precious Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace – source of all bright hope in darkness and struggle, with the Middle-Eastern and global church and every angel in heaven, we welcome your reconciling presence among us!
We praise you, Prince of Peace – promised, now come!
We worship you, Peace on earth – announced to shepherds on a hillside!
We exalt you, Peace with us – source and bringer of all peace we receive and build today!
We exalt you, Peace risen and reigning – and one day returning to end all war!

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