

# ADVENT CANDLES: 5 LIGHTS

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: PROPHECY CANDLE

**READER 1:** For centuries, God sent prophets to speak His words, announcing the Messiah's coming. When Jesus was born, the Word of God became a real, living human being. He was a shining light in a dark world. And so, today we light the prophecy candle.

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Light the first purple candle.

**READER 2:** John 1:1-14

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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: PREPARATION CANDLE

**READER 1:** Before a King ascends the throne, preparations must be made. Messengers are sent out to announce the event. Before Jesus was born, God sent His messenger Gabriel to announce the coming of a King. In a world thrown into dark chaos, the shining angel's message was a bright light. And so, today we light the candle of preparation.

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Light the previous purple candle and a new one.

**READER 2:** Luke 1:26-38

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: JOY CANDLE

**READER 1:** In the middle of everyday life, God can seem distant. When Jesus came into the world, the glory and the joy of the Lord broke into the bleak lives of a few simple shepherds. The light of several million angels declared news of great joy. And so today we light the Joy candle.

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Light the two previous purple candles and finally the pink candle.

**READER 2:** Luke 2:8-20

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: FULFILLMENT CANDLE

**READER 1:** What path leads to a fulfilling life? A band of first century wise men found their way by following a star. That star lead to the home of Jesus where they worshipped and gave Him expensive gifts. The light of that star still points to a life that's abundant and full, a life completely given to Christ Jesus. So today, we light the fulfillment candle.

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Light the two previous purple candles, the pink candle and finally the last purple candle.

**READER 2:** Matthew 2:1-12

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## Christmas Eve: CHRIST CANDLE

**READER 1:** Everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glorious light of God. We are separated from the Lord and cannot be with Him. The good news is, 2000 years ago a child was born. He was called "Jesus" which means "God saves". He was also called "Immanuel" which means "God with us". He brought the light of God's salvation and presence. So today, we light the Christ Candle.

**CANDLE LIGHTER:** Light the three purple candles and the pink candle. Finally, light the white center candle.

**READER 2:** Matthew 1:18-25