

# Advent Reading 2018: Christ

---

Good evening. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ and this is \_\_\_\_\_. We will light the Christ candle this evening to celebrate the birth of Christ, the light of the world.

The apostle John wrote

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (Joh 1:1-14 ESV).

Over our advent Sundays we reflected on the hope, peace, love and joy which are ours in abundance at Christmas. How are they ours? The world remains dark and cold. Our lives, though filled to the brim with abundance, often seem empty. Nights seem anything but silent and there is much sin and error in which we remain pining. What is our ground for hope, peace, love and joy? How do we come to experience a life comprised of these longed-for attitudes? Our lives become as full of hope, peace, love and joy as our hearts and minds are full of the glory of Christ.

God did not directly give us hope, peace, love and joy at Christmas. Rather, He indirectly gives us lives marked by these attitudes by directly offering us Christ, His Son, and our Savior, Lord and Friend. In constantly putting Christ at the center of our lives, hope, peace, love, and joy emerge from their slumber and awaken our hearts and minds to the reality that God Is With Us, Christ is in us, and Christ is coming for us again.

Christ is at the center of these candles and from this place his light illuminates the others. May Christ be at the center of your life and illuminate your heart with hope, peace, love and joy.

(Light the Christ Candle in the Center.)