

Week 4: Turn on the Light!

Sunday

Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of your Advent altar.

Pause in silent preparation. Allow your mind to settle down and declutter. Slow your breathing and relax your body.

Read John 1:1-14

We have been on a journey together. We began by visiting the place where light began. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...and God said, 'Let there be light...' and he saw that the light was good! Next, we explored the darkness and discovered that God inhabits the darkness in ways we could never imagine – that darkness is good as well. Last week, we found our selves in between the dark and the light – that liminal space of doubt and questions, of waiting, waiting, waiting.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we turn on the lights! John 1 says the Word – Jesus - became human flesh. In him was life and that life was a light to all. But sadly, he came into the world that was made through him, and the world did not recognize him – his own did not receive him.

What was the world Jesus stepped into? First of all, Jesus was a Jew. He was born into an established culture, a civilization, a religion. Not only was he born a Jew, he was a poor Jew. His parents could not even provide a lamb for his dedication in the temple – only two small pigeons. Lastly, the Jewish nation was a minority in the midst of a dominating Roman culture. Much like today, the scene was bleak and dark, oppressive and divided. Yet many did not recognize him – not even his own people. They missed the Light when they needed it most.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the Light, your Light! We pray and we cry out to you for mercy and grace to recognize You, and the great gift of your Light! May our hearts burn and glow with that light today! Amen.



Engage in the following activities and reflections this coming week:

Monday

We have a rare opportunity today to experience a display of heavenly light that hasn't occurred for nearly 800 years. On this day of winter solstice, Jupiter and Saturn will align so closely that they will appear as one star. To catch a glimpse of this "Christmas Miracle," look to the southwest about 45 minutes after sunset. Praise God for this heavenly light!

Tuesday

Read Luke 2:1-20. Shepherds interrupted on a dark night by a heavenly host of angels! Light in the dark night that led them to a tiny babe in a manger. What would it take for you to recognize the Savior of the world? What darkness in you needs his light?

Wednesday

Read the story of the Magi in Matthew 2:1-12. Drawn by a star, the wisemen recognized something unusual was afoot. Their curiosity led them to the child. Their instincts led them to keep their discovery from Herod. Where is the light going on for you this Advent? What wisdom have you gained for this dark time?

Thursday, Christmas Eve!

We made it! It is Christmas Eve! Light all five candles on your altar and allow the light to fill the room and fill your soul! Isaiah 9:2 is an important prophecy of Jesus' birth both then and now. Read it several times and rejoice that the Light has dawned!

Friday, Christmas Day!

It is Christmas! Light your Christ candle and if possible, leave it burning throughout the day. Spend time today reflecting on one last scripture prophecy – Isaiah 60:1-3, & 19-20. Carry this great truth through this day and into the new year to come:

*"For the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory."*