



Dec. 18, 2024

What Does the Fourth Advent Candle Stand for?

In contemporary Western Christianity, the typical Advent wreath has four candles inside an evergreen wreath. Each one is lit during a new week of Advent and [has a particular meaning](#) attached to it. [Candle 1](#) is purple, known as “the Prophet’s Candle,” and it stands for hope. [Candle 2](#) is purple, known as “the Bethlehem Candle,” and stands for peace. [Candle 3](#) is pink or rose-colored, known as “the Shepherd’s Candle,” and stands for joy. Candle 4 is purple, known as “the Angel’s Candle,” and stands for love. The fifth candle, a white one known as “Christ’s Candle,” which stands for baby Jesus. This candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, the culmination of Advent.

How Does the Bible Describe Love?

More so than perhaps any of the other advent candle themes, love is easily misunderstood. We often think of love in purely sentimental terms, thinking it means being happy or being nice. The Bible affirms that and that his sending Jesus into the world was an act of perfect love ([1 John 4:8-12](#)). Jesus loved people, and yet he didn’t try to always be nice to people. Sometimes, he pushed people to consider what they really believed if they really wanted to follow him ([Mark 10:17-27](#)). Sometimes, he got them to admit their mistakes to see how much they needed God ([John 4:1-42](#)). Throughout his ministry, he maintained that the key to finding God was not to “follow your heart” but to follow him and obey his teachings.

Why Is Love So Important to Christmas?

As noted above, the Bible states that God sent Jesus into the world as an act of love. Jesus came into a world that desperately needed help because it was in the grips of sin. King Herod’s [slaughter of the innocents](#) captured this truth in a graphic way: Jesus had entered a world where greed and ruthless self-protection reigned.

Jewish prophets had said centuries earlier that someone would come that would bring an end to this strife. This Messiah, from the family line of King David ([Ezekiel 37:24](#)), would be born to a virgin ([Isaiah 7:14](#)) and be a great ruler ([Isaiah 11:12](#)). Gabriel affirmed these prophecies when he told Mary that her son would sit on David’s throne, reigning forever ([Luke 1:32-33](#)). The Messiah would bring an end to strife not by being a conventional ruler but by dying for people’s transgressions ([Isaiah 53:5](#)). People would be healed by the Messiah’s sacrifice, bringing freedom at last.

Thus, Jesus’ birth was proof that God had not abandoned or forgotten the world. His gift of love had come, to bring freedom for captives and heal the hurting ([Luke 4:18](#)). Jesus was the perfect gift.

A Prayer for Advent Week 4

Lord Jesus, thank you for your gift of love. We know that we were dead in our sins, and did not deserve anything but death. Thank you that despite our many sins, you still loved us and came to save us. You came and showed us how to love. Teach us what it is to love, and how to practice it each day. Remind us that love is paradoxical, sacrificial, and only found in you. Give us the wisdom we need to love well, the mercy to forgive ourselves when we neglect to love well, and the hunger to always learn more about love. We ask for all these things in your name, Amen.

Love in action never gives up.
Love in action cares more for others than for self.
Love in action doesn't want more than what is theirs.
Love in action doesn't show off,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the telling of truth,
Puts up with a lot,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
And keeps going to the end.

(adapted from Pauls letters to the Corinthians, The Message)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GoFundMe for Shannon Jarvis

Shannon Jarvis has been dealing with serious health issues for all of her life and has endured major hardships and setbacks in her health in the last three years, especially. She recently came home from more than a two year stay in the hospital in 2022-2024, that has left her with the inability to walk, indefinitely, at the age of 34. Now that she is home in her parents' house, she is confined to her bedroom as the house and bathroom are not wheelchair accessible. Another friend and I have started a GoFundMe for Shannon to raise money for a bathroom renovation, to make her bathroom wheelchair accessible so she can live more comfortably in her home.

The link for the GoFundMe for Shannon is here:

<https://gofund.me/9ef554f3>

Donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Lunardo

Prayer Roster

We are looking for additional congregants to help with the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession. If you feel that you would like to volunteer to read this prayer occasionally on a Sunday morning, please speak to Bob Twynam. This is not a difficult task, as this prayer can be found on the Presbyterian Church in Canada's website. All you have to do is print it off and you are set. **OR** if you feel that you would like to make up your own prayer, you are most welcome to do so.

NEW



A Fall Devotional Update

A **new** edition of **Our Daily Bread** (December/January/February), as well as the current edition of **These Days** (October/November/December) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.

Coffee/Tea Sign - Up



The sign-up sheet for coffee/tea service after worship is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen downstairs. Please sign yourselves up or sign up your committee so that our Fellowship time after church can continue.

Dec. 8 – Harry & Pat

Dec. 15 – Rachael & Nancy J.

Dec. 22 - ??? (Sorry I was away for a week and do not know if anyone signed up)

Dec. 29 - ???

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

* Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times.

* **Irene Langstaff's** son, **Michael**, will be having surgery next Monday, the 23rd.

* Please keep in your prayers the following: Robert Soth, Zachariah Mwangi, Shirley P., Josephine Wong, Shelia Thomas' grandson, Carter, Ed L., Bob N., Lenore C., Charlotte Prentice, Joan and Peter K., Margaret M's brother, Simon, the Jarvis family, Olive S., Roman P., Jean Fox's nephew, Ryan, Anna C. and Gordon F. Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- * Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- * Monday, Dec. 23 @ 12:30 – Advent Lunch #3
- * Tuesday, Dec. 24 @ 7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service
- * Monday, Jan. 6 @ 7:00 PM – Outlook Team Meeting



Nov 29	Deck the Halls @6:30pm
Nov 30	Christmas Market @2pm, @ St. Giles Kingsway
Dec 1	First Advent Communion Sunday Service
Dec 2	Advent Lunch: The Promise of Truth @12:30pm
Dec 8	Second Advent Sunday Service
Dec 9	Advent Lunch: The Promise of Compassion
Dec 10	Elaine's Craft Club Lunch @ 12 pm @The Prince
Dec 15	Third Advent Sunday Service
Dec 16	Advent Lunch: The Promise of Restoration
Dec 22	Fourth Advent Sunday Service
Dec 23	Advent Lunch: The Promise of Justice
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service @7pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day (no service)

*Our services are now live streamed. Go to the church's website (www.graceview.ca) to click the link for the most recent worship services on YouTube.

* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out and be sure to "follow."

Prayer Roster

Dec. 22 Eric Lee
Dec. 29 Bob Twynam

Lay Readers

Margaret Munene
Georgena Engineer

Welcome and Announcements

Bob Twynam
Kathy Twynam

WEEKLY GIGGLE

Christmas Fireman

In a small Southern town there was a "Nativity Scene" that showed great skill, and talent had gone into creating it. One small feature bothered me. The three wise men were wearing firemen's helmets. Totally unable to come up with a reason or explanation, I left.

At a "Quick Stop" on the edge of town, I asked the lady behind the counter about the helmets. She exploded into a rage, yelling at me, "You Northern Yankees never do read the Bible!" I assured her that I did, but simply couldn't recall anything about firemen in the Bible. She jerked her Bible from behind the counter and ruffled through some pages, and finally jabbed her finger at a passage. Sticking it in my face she said "See, it says right here, 'The three wise men came from afar.'"

(Would love to know how long it took you, my friends, to figure this one out)

Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan choppertini@hotmail.com

Contact information for Pastor Eric Lee: 778-791-1741; leefyeric@gmail.com

NB: If the phone number for Pastor Eric does not connect you immediately (technical issues?) call the church (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

Email for Iris: ericirishk@gmail.com

* Message from **Pastor Eric**: "FYI the Graceview website page below has been revamped, so as to keep people updated of our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview".

<https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>



May the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Christmas Season be with you all.

DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Holy Communion	2 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview Advent Lunch 12:30	3 Walking Group 11:00	4	5 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	6	7
8	9 Sing Etobicoke @NPCC Advent Lunch 12:30	10 Walking Group 11:00	11	12 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	13 Toronto Baroque Players 7:00 PM	14
15	16 Sing Etobicoke @Graceview Advent Lunch 12:30	17 Walking Group 11:00	18	19 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	20	21
22	23 Advent Lunch 12:30	24 Christmas Eve Walking Group 11:00	25 Christmas Day	26 Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve Walking Group 11:00				