

November 27

Awake to Joy

LIGHT CANDLE

Today we light the candle that stands for **JOY**. We light the **Shepherd's candle** to remember their joy in hearing the news of Christ birth and in coming to worship Him. This candle commemorates the jubilation of the shepherds. What an amazing and awesome spectacle those shepherds witnessed. Out of nowhere appeared an angelic choir proclaiming the Savior's birth. We must remember that these shepherds were the most common people of their day. They smelled of sheep, were dressed poorly, and had no expensive gifts to bring. Yet God chose to announce the birth of His only Son to them! This shows us that no matter our place in society, Christ was born for us! He came in humility to all people: "Glory to God in the highest!"

SCRIPTURE - Luke 2:4-14

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for your amazing birth and the announcement to the Shepherds. Help us, like those Shepherds of old, to be amazed and in awe. Forgive us for not marveling more at such a gift. Help us to ponder this great and joyful message in our hearts. Give us the courage to spread the incredible news of Christ's incarnation that others may experience You and true joy. Amen.

December 4

Awake to Peace

LIGHT CANDLE

Today we light the candle that stands for **PEACE**. We light the **angel's candle** to remember the peace that is ours through the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Savior. This candle commemorates the peace which the angels announced. Sadly, many people are pursuing a very wrong conception of "peace on earth". The peace that God offers is not merely the absence of conflict. Rather, He offers peace between Himself and mankind – the renewal of a relationship that had been broken by sin. Peace with God is the ultimate Christmas gift. This season calls us back to the purpose for the birth of Christ. He came to BE our peace – to bring us into right relationship with God through His death on the cross.

SCRIPTURE - Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 5:1-2

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the promise of peace on earth. We confess our rebellion against your absolute sovereign lordship. We acknowledge we do not always represent your peace to others. Give us a new understanding of what it means to have peace with God. We praise You that Jesus was willing to live on this earth, and die on the cross that we might be reconciled to You. You arose from the dead so that we might experience your peace which is beyond understanding. Amen.

December 11

Awake to Hope

LIGHT CANDLE

Today we light the candle that stands for **HOPE**. This is the **prophets candle** to remind us of the hope which Old Testament saints had in the certain coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This candle commemorates the joyful anticipation which God's people had of the coming Messiah. These saints of the Old Testament counted on the fact that God made a covenant with His people that He would send a Redeemer. In God's language "hope" is a certainty. Because Jesus came to this earth we can be confident that what God has promised, He will do.

SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince Of Peace. Help us to experience you as our Living Hope and give us grace that we may not doubt. Fill us with your hope. As You gave certain trust to the Old Testament prophets, help us take confidence in Your promises. May we be people whose hope is in the Lord. Amen.



December 18

Awake to Faith

December 24

Awake to Love

COLLEGE DRIVE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

COALDALE
MENNONITE
CHURCH

Coalhurst
Good News
Centre

COALDALE MB CHURCH

LIGHT CANDLE

Today we light the candle that stands for **FAITH**. We light the **Bethlehem candle** to remember the faith with which Joseph and Mary responded to God's plan for them to be human parents of Jesus. This candle commemorates the faith and trust that was evident in Mary and Joseph. Imagine their shock at being chosen to parent the Savior of the world! Imagine the misunderstanding which this God-fearing couple would have faced as Mary's pregnancy became evident – though she was not married. However, this poor Hebrew couple was more concerned with following God's will than the wild speculation of men. They chose to put their trust in God's promise and to obey in faith.

SCRIPTURE - Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You that You are the Author of history. Thank you for weaving together the lineage of Mary and Joseph, for choosing them as the human parents of Your Son, Jesus. Forgive us for not showing the kind of faith they displayed. Cause our hearts to believe more deeply the incredible truth that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. May we follow You - as You desire - with a whole hearted faith. Amen.



LIGHT CANDLE

Today we light the candle that stands for **LOVE**. We light the **Christ candle** to remember the infinite love which Jesus showed by taking on human flesh to become our Savior. This candle commemorates the love of the Lord Jesus for every individual. He gave up the glory of heaven to become a man that He might reveal God's divine nature to us. Just think of it! The Creator of the universe took on the form of His creation so that He could identify with our need. And yet, He lived a sinless life, so that He, in His great love, could be our sinless substitute on Calvary. He conquered sin and death in his resurrection and made a way that we could enjoy him and his love forever. What wonderful love He has for us!

SCRIPTURE - Philippians 2:5-11, 1 John 4:19

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We love because he first loved us.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank You for visiting your people with salvation. We honor You for giving yourself to us a humble Servant and a faithful Shepherd. We thank you for Your incarnation – your complete identification with our need. Help us grow in experiencing Your love for us and to learn to love ourselves and others. May the delight we have today be centered upon You, whose Name is above every name. We praise You. We love You. Amen.



Advent Celebration



2016



Awake to Jesus!