ADVENT: READINGS & PRAYERS

Week 1 of Advent: Waiting

READING

Today we remember the meaning of Advent. Advent is a word that means "coming." In the Christian season of Advent, we prepare for the "advent" of Christ at Christmas. Our preparation includes remembering. We remember Israel's hope for the coming of God's Messiah to save, forgive, and restore. We remember we are in darkness and exile, in need of a Savior. We remember our hope for the second coming of Jesus. By lighting one candle each week of Advent, we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ into our world and hearts. Today we focus on waiting for the coming Christ.

PRAYER

God, thank you for this season of Advent that helps us prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. As we read your Word and light a candle, may excitement for Christ's coming burn in our hearts. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 27:7-14

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

[As someone lights the first candle, the following should be read or paraphrased.]

We light this candle because we look forward with hope to the coming of Christ.

PRAYER

God, as we light this candle, we hope for your coming as our Savior and King. Please keep us safe in your dwelling, be merciful to us, teach us your ways, and let us "see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Come, our King! Amen!

CLOSING SONG

[To be sung to the tune of "O come let us adore him" from "O Come All Ye Faithful."]

O come to us, our Shepherd,
O come to us, our Shepherd,
O come to us, our Shepherd,
Christ the Lord!