

Advent Candle of Hope & Prayer

(Note for AZ – to supply final prayer text)

- **Placement in Service:** After or during the video/script.
- **Action:** Light the **Advent Candle of Hope**.
- **Prayer:**

Option A

Prayer of Hope

God of light and promise,
on this first Sunday of Advent we turn to You,
our true source of hope.

We confess the shadows in our land –
poverty that steals dignity,
violence that breaks trust,
injustice that leaves many without bread.
Yet we believe Your Word:
the night is nearly over, the day is almost here.

Come, Lord Jesus, and awaken us.
Clothe us with Your light,
so that we may be witnesses of hope where despair reigns,
workers for dignity where humanity is denied,
builders of peace where fear divides.

Bless South Africa, Lord:
our leaders, our communities, our families.
Give us courage not only to pray for peace and justice,
but to live it out with open hands and willing hearts.

As we light the candle of Hope,
may it burn in us and through us –
until Your kingdom comes on earth as in heaven.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Living Hope.
Amen.

Option B

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 122 & Isaiah 2)

Leader: Come, people of God, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.

People: That He may teach us His ways, and we may walk in His paths.

Leader: Our feet stand within God's gates, O Jerusalem, city of peace.

People: Here we pray for peace, for justice, for hope.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace – we long for Your coming.

Advent Candle Lighting – Candle of Hope

(A family or group is invited to light the first candle.)

Reader: Today we light the candle of Hope.

In a world of poverty and inequality,

in a nation where dignity is often trampled,

we hold on to God's promise:

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here." (Romans 13:12)

We light this candle as a sign of hope –

a hope we are called not only to receive, but to witness to,

to work for, in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and land.

(Candle is lit)

All: Come, Lord Jesus, our Living Hope.

Prayer of Confession & Assurance (Romans 13)

Leader: The Apostle calls us to "wake from sleep,"

to cast off the works of darkness.

Let us confess our sins before God.

(Silent prayer)

Leader: Lord, forgive us when we choose despair over hope,

when we walk past those in need,

when we forget that every person carries Your image.

Clothe us with Christ, that we may be Your people of light.

Assurance of Grace

Hear the Good News:

The night is far gone, the day is near.

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, renewed, and called.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Scripture Readings

- Isaiah 2:1–5 – The vision of peace
- Psalm 122 – Praying for the peace of the city

- Romans 13:11–14 – Living as people of the day
- Matthew 24:36–44 – Living alert in hope

Followed by the prayer (see above)

Song / Hymn of choice