

Lighting the Advent Candles (Old Testament Year C)

This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on the Old Testament lessons of the Revised Common Lectionary in Year C.

At each successive lighting of the Advent candles, all texts from the preceding lightings are read in addition to the text introduced that day.

On the First Sunday of Advent and following Sundays:

We light this candle [these candles] as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace;
**who brings good news,
who announces salvation.**

Isaiah 52

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise I made to my people.

Jeremiah 33

And on the Second Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings:

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way;
the messenger of the covenant is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 3

And on the Third Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings:

I will bring you home, says the Lord;
I will gather you in and restore your fortunes before your eyes.

Zephaniah 3

And on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings:

And you, O Bethlehem:
from you shall come the promised one,
whose reign shall extend to the ends of the earth.

Micah 5

And on the eve of Christmas, or on Christmas Day:

Now a child has been born for us,
a son is given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9

On each occasion the lighting of the candles is concluded with:

Sing aloud, O people, and shout for joy!
The Lord our God is in our midst.

Zephaniah 3