

# Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy 2020

BY DEREK WEBER, ADAPTED

WEEK THREE

**ADVENT WREATH:** Isaiah 64:1-4, 8-11

Rev. Marilyn Coney

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
Because the LORD anointed me to bring good news to the humble;  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim release to captives And freedom to prisoners;  
    <sup>2</sup> To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD  
    And the day of vengeance of our God;  
    To comfort all who mourn,  
    <sup>3</sup> To provide for those who mourn in Zion,  
Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
The cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit.  
    So they will be called oaks of righteousness,  
    The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.  
    <sup>4</sup> Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins,  
    They will raise up the former devastations;  
And they will repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.*

*<sup>8</sup> For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering;  
    And I will faithfully give them their reward,  
    And make an everlasting covenant with them.  
    <sup>9</sup> Then their offspring will be known among the nations,  
    And their descendants in the midst of the peoples.  
    All who see them will recognize them  
    Because they are the offspring whom the LORD has blessed.*

*<sup>10</sup> I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will be joyful in my God;  
    For He has clothed me with garments of salvation,  
    He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,  
As a groom puts on a turban, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*<sup>11</sup> For as the earth produces its sprouts,  
And as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up,  
So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
    To spring up before all the nations.*

**Reader One:** We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

**Reader Two:** The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

**Reader One:** We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming... Jesus is coming.

**Reader Two:** O Come, O Come Emmanuel. Please join in singing the sung response:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

(Refrain to O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)