

Christ

PEACE

Prevailing

JOY

Abounding

LOVE

Born

HOPE

Given

Review: Pause to Receive the Peace of Christmas



Advent Week 4

A Candle of Peace



Advent Peace

What Steals Your Peace?

1. Pride: Don't let the world define you or entice you (1 John 2:15-17).
2. Fear: Fear God, not man. (Eccl 12:13, Matt 10:28)
3. Worry: Have confidence in God (Phil 1:6)
4. Doubt: Trust in who God is, what He has done, and all He promises to do. (Psa 18:2)
5. Self-focus: Look to Jesus. (Heb 12:2)

These things I have
spoken to you, that in Me you might have
peace. In the world
you shall have tribulation; but be of
good cheer, I have
overcome
the world.
John 16:33



Advent Peace

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Col 3:15 And let the **peace of God** rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

These things I have
spoken to you, that in Me you might have
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you shall have tribulation; but be of
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The Christ Candle

www.reasonsforhopeJesus.com

The Christ Candle

On Christmas Day we light the candle that is at the center of all the other candles. It is the CHRIST candle.

And it represents Jesus as the giver of
HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE.



The Christ Candle

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the words to this song while sitting at his sons' hospital bed. Read the story of the despair he felt and the hope he found in hearing the bells.

There's a story behind this song that was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in 1863. Amidst the death and destruction caused by Civil War, Longfellow was greatly grieved.

He had lost two wives, and on December 25th, 1863 his son lay in a hospital bed from war inflicted injuries. And as he sat by his son's bedside, Longfellow heard the church bells and penned the words to his great poem, "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day."



The Christ Candle

In Deep Despair

So troubled and in deep “despair,” Longfellow wrote of the canons that drowned out the message of the Christmas bells. His poem seemed to be headed toward a dark conclusion. But then . . . seemingly void of hope, he wrote,

*“Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
‘God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, goodwill to men.’”*



The Christ Candle

Rescued from despair! For Longfellow's realization was that "God is not dead!" The struggles of this world and the evils of it "shall fail" and God, who "doth not sleep," His "right" shall "prevail." And Henry Wadsworth Longfellow came to the conclusion that there will be "peace on earth, goodwill to men," just as "the bells" declared/ He ended his poem with . . .

"Till ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day —
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!"



The Christ Candle

This Christmas day song brings us back to the beginning of our Advent preparation. We began with the light of the hope candle:

“[Jesus] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not ‘overcome’ it.” ([John 1:2-5](#))

Consider the Christmas message of hope . . . for though the world lies in darkness, He who is “the Light of the world” has come and neither the world, nor Satan, nor “the darkness” can “overpower” the work of God in Christ.

“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep.”



A snowy night scene of a village. In the foreground, several evergreen trees are decorated with warm white lights and red ornaments. In the background, a church with a tall, lit steeple is visible. The scene is covered in a heavy layer of snow, and the overall atmosphere is festive and serene.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

WORDS FROM THE 1863 POEM "CHRISTMAS BELLS"
BY HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW
PERFORMED BY CASTING CROWNS

The Christ Candle

We have lit the candles of HOPE, LOVE, JOY, and PEACE.
And we have remembered the light that came into a dark world to bring
hope, love, joy, and peace.

- Jesus came as the Light from Heaven, giving light to our world.
- Jesus died in darkness — the darkness of fallen and broken world.
- Jesus rose again as eternal Light, True Hope, Amazing Love, Abounding Joy, and Secure Peace.

Because of Jesus, we live. And we are light to a dark world. Let your light shine



The background of the image is a dark, rustic wooden wall made of horizontal planks. In the foreground, there is a wooden manger structure, partially filled with dry hay. The overall lighting is warm and dim, creating a cozy, historical atmosphere.

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS



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