

Unwrapping the Gift of Jesus



Unwrapping the Gift of HOPE

**Peace United Church of Christ**  
**Worship Resources for the First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 30, 2025    Advent Communion**

*Welcome to Advent! If you have an Advent wreath at home, place it nearby and light it as part of the service.  
Also, please prepare the elements for Communion before viewing the service.*

**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn            “Lift Up Your Heads”**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here;  
Life and salvation doth He bring, Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:  
We praise Thee, Father, now! Creator, wise art Thou!

Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thy inner presence feel, Thy grace and love in me reveal.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on, Until our glorious goal be won!  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy Name.

**Prayer of Invocation**

***God, we stand within the gates of a new year in the church, as Advent begins.***

***We are glad to be here, to stand together and await the Promised One.***

***Help us to seek the good that you provide, to trust in the hope that awakens in us in these days of anticipation and wonder. We pray in the name of the One to come, Jesus. Amen***

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle: The Candle of Hope**

***Prayer: God, our hope is in you, and in the One whom you send to us. Open our eyes and hearts to the signs, sounds and sensations around us, signaling a new beginning. Amen***

**Meditation**

**Prayers of the People/The Prayer of Our Savior (debts and debtors)**

**Gather at the Welcome Table: Advent Communion**

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Breaking the Bread/Blessing the Cup

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body we receive in this meal  
and for the hope it plants in us, we give thanks.*

*Encourage us in these shadowy days to seek the light,  
and through the long nights of this season,  
may your hope carry us until the Dawn arrives once again.  
In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen*

**Closing Hymn    “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

**Benediction & Sending Forth**