



WITH

PEACE

WEEK 2

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Candle Light Reading #1 (Isaiah 61:1-3 ESV):

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion - to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

Candle Light Reading #2 (A series of weekly readings from Isaiah) - from The Worship Sourcebook, p.439-440, #27:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2, NRSV)

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by the paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do and I will not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16, NRSV)

Come, Lord Jesus, our Promise and our Salvation. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "peace to you"; you love justice and you establish peace on earth. We bring before you our disunity, the violence, and the wars, our human greed and injustice, which breed hatred and strife. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be renewed; teach us to be compassionate towards one another; strengthen our love for your justice and your peace, and give us that peace which the world cannot give. Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred let us sow love, where there is injury, pardon, where there is doubt, faith, where there is despair, hope, where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy. Only you have the power to transform us so completely into people of your peace. In all this, may all glory and honor be to you alone forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Psalm 23:1-6 NIV):

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (J. Neale):

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

Benediction (from Philippians 4:7 & 2 Thessalonians 3:16 NIV):

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. May the Lord of peace himself give us peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with us all.