

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY
YEAR C

Text written by Carla Pratt Keyes

Music written by Doug Brown

for Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA

Instructions: *Those who are leading the litany should light the candle(s) beginning when the congregation says, "Christ is our light." The final response may be followed by a prayer of the day, or you may eliminate the final sung response and move directly into the first hymn of worship (if this litany will function as your call to worship).*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Isaiah 9:2

All: **Christ is our light.**

By grace he came,

in power he rose;

we wait for Christ to come again.

Response:

From Central Moluccas
traditional melody

Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor

We wait, _ we wait, _ we wait, _____ we wait, _____ ma-ra-

All: Cantor: All:

na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, we wait, _____ we wait, _____

One: The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

Jeremiah 33:14-15

All: **In those days and at that time**

God will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;

and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Response

One: Make known to us your ways, O Lord;
teach us your paths.

Psalms 25:4-5

All: **Lead us in your truth, and teach us,**
for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long.

Response

(In Aramaic, *Maranatha* may mean either “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come.”)

Suggestion: Eliminate last response and sing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2

All: Christ is our light.
By grace he came,
in power he rose;
we wait for Christ to come again.
Response:

From Central Moluccas
traditional melody

Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor

We wait, we wait, we wait, we wait, ma-ra-

All: Cantor: All:

na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, we wait, we wait.

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, Luke 1:68-79
for God has looked favorably upon God's people and redeemed them.

All: God has raised up a mighty savior for us,
as promised through the mouth of the prophets

One: to save us from our enemies,

All: so we might serve God without fear
in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.

Response

One: By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us

All: to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Response

(In Aramaic, *Maranatha* may mean either "Come, our Lord!" or "Our Lord has come.")

Suggestion: eliminate last response and sing "People, Look East"

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2

All: Christ is our light.
By grace he came,
in power he rose;
we wait for Christ to come again.
Response:

From Central Moluccas
traditional melody

Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor

We wait, _ we wait, _ we wait, _ we wait, _ ma-ra-

All: Cantor: All:

na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, we wait, _ we wait, _

One: Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Zephaniah 3:14-20
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you
and turned away your enemies.

All: We will fear disaster no more.

One: Do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

**All: God will rejoice over us with gladness
and renew us in love.**

Response

One: God will save the lame and gather the outcast,
changing their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

All: At that time, God will bring us home.
The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, Philipians 4:7
will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Response

(In Aramaic, *Maranatha* may mean either “Come, our Lord!” or “Our Lord has come.”)

Suggestion: eliminate final response and sing Hymn 2, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2

**All: Christ is our light.
By grace he came,
in power he rose;
we wait for Christ to come again.**

Response:

From Central Moluccas
traditional melody

Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor

We wait, _ we wait, _ we wait, _ we wait, _ ma-ra-

All: Cantor: All:

na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, we wait, _ we wait, _

One: From Bethlehem shall come forth the one who will rule in Israel, Micah 5:2-5
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

**All: He shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
They shall live secure,
for he shall be great to the ends of the earth,
and he shall be the one of peace.**

Response

One: My soul magnifies the Lord, Luke 1:46-55
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**All: God has helped us, according to the promise God made.
The Lord's mercy is for those who fear God
from generation to generation.**

Response

(In Aramaic, *Maranatha* may mean either "Come, our Lord!" or "Our Lord has come.")

Suggestion: eliminate final response and sing "Joy to the World!"

CHRISTMAS EVE

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Isaiah 9:2

All: Christ is our light.
By grace he came,
in power he rose;
we wait for Christ to come again.
Response:

From Central Moluccas
traditional melody

Cantor: All: Cantor: All: Cantor

He comes, He comes, He comes, He comes ma-ra-

All: Cantor: All:

na - tha, ma-ra - na - tha, He comes, He comes.

One: A child has been born for us, a son given to us; Isaiah 9:6

All: authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Response

One: Sing to the Lord, bless God's name; Psalm 96:2-3
tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

All: Declare God's glory among the nations,
the wonders of the Lord among all peoples.
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Titus 2:11

One: Glory to God in the highest heaven,

Luke 2:14

All: and on earth peace
among those whom God favors!
Response

(In Aramaic, *Maranatha* may mean either "Come, our Lord!" or "Our Lord has come.")