



# First Sunday in Advent

# Hope

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**Voice 1:** The prophet Isaiah announced that people of all nations will come to the mountain of the Lord and learn God's ways.

**Voice 2:** When we look at this suffering world, we know we need to follow God's ways.

**Voice 1:** God will settle disputes among the nations. Weapons will be transformed into tools for planting and growth. Nations will live in peace—no more will they prepare for war.

**Voice 2:** We cling to that promise and light this candle of hope, inspired by a vision of a world where children grow into adulthood, and parents live to old age.

*The candle of hope is lit.*

## **Let us pray together:**

Living God, make us more aware of your presence. We trust your promises and wait with hopeful hearts. Come, Lord Jesus.





# Hope and Education in Pakistan

Twelve-year-old Sapna and her 10-year-old sister Raksha are part of a story that is reshaping their village's future.

Not long ago, the girls' school in their village was closed, leaving many without a chance to learn. But everything changed when PWS&D's partner stepped in and reopened the girls' school. From the moment the doors opened, a new chapter began, not just for Sapna and Raksha, but for every girl in the village.

Now, every morning, the girls eagerly head to school with bright smiles and hearts full of hope.

One of the things they love most is the delicious meals they receive every day at school. Because of these meals, more girls in the village are coming to school. The village has changed because of this project. Enrolment has risen, and the excitement to learn is growing every day.

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to help ensure girls have access to education.**

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# Second Sunday in Advent

# Peace

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**Voice 1:** The psalmist dreamed of a world where leaders govern with righteousness, and the poor are treated with dignity and justice.

**Voice 2:** In this new creation, the oppressed are set free, the vulnerable are protected and peace flows like a river.

**Voice 1:** Today, too many experience violence, poverty and persecution. Yet, they yearn to know peace.

**Voice 2:** We long to live in that new creation, where God's glory is revealed on earth, through justice and peace. Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace as a prayer of longing.

*The candle of peace is lit.*

### **Let us pray together:**

Living God, help us to recognize your presence wherever people work for peace. Teach us to be instruments of your peace in the world. Come, Lord Jesus.





# Gaza

## Aid Brings Relief

As violence persists in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, humanitarian needs on the ground are extreme and the ability to deliver aid continues to be challenging.

With thousands of families displaced, schools and hospitals bombed, thousands of children killed, and famine conditions, the impetus to act is greater than ever.

Despite the challenges, PWS&D has been responding through ecumenical networks and partnerships at ACT Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food and other humanitarian assistance where and whenever possible.

Ibrahim was a participant in a recent Canadian Foodgrains Bank food distribution. The food package he received made a big difference—not only easing his financial burden but also improving his son's health.

“This food parcel alleviated his suffering and provided my child with the necessary food,” he shared. “Food aid distributions like this are essential.”

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to help provide food and humanitarian assistance for people in crisis.**

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# Third Sunday in Advent

# Joy

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**Voice 1:** Mary praised God who entrusted her with a sacred role. Great things God has done!

**Voice 2:** With Jesus' birth, the world will never be the same again.

**Voice 1:** The powerful will be toppled from their thrones. The hungry will be lifted up and joy will break through in unexpected places.

**Voice 2:** Every time a child is born, the world changes for someone. Our lives changed when a humble young woman gave birth to the One who would save us. On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy.

*The candle of joy is lit.*

## **Let us pray together:**

Living God, gift us with Mary's trust and readiness to accept your purpose. May we celebrate your coming, as we say with joy: Come, Lord Jesus.



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# Brenda Gains Confidence in Nicaragua



Brenda Francisca Méndez Ñurinda is an entrepreneur and mother of two, living in Nicaragua.

“I come from a large family with few economic resources, but very hardworking,” she explains.

During her first years of motherhood, Brenda experienced domestic violence. After leaving the abusive relationship, Brenda looked for work at the local market, where she earned minimal pay for her efforts.

To improve her family’s future prospects, Brenda participated in a program implemented by PWS&D’s local partner, INPRHU. Through the training she received, Brenda developed the knowledge and confidence to start her own small shop.

“Each workshop strengthened me. I found a space to share, learn and improve my self-esteem as a woman and mother. My children are my greatest motivation. I decided to resume my high school studies on Sundays, and I am proud of my achievements. Now, I am an entrepreneur,” she shares with excitement.

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to help families build sustainable livelihoods and advocate for their rights.**



# Fourth Sunday in Advent

# Love

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**Voice 1:** An angel of the Lord declared, “God is with us” — this is the greatest gift of love.

**Voice 2:** Yet even at Christmas, love is often measured by gifts and material things.

**Voice 1:** But God’s love can come through people: a king named David, a prophet named Nathan, and Mary and Joseph. In a baby, God’s love was made real among us.

**Voice 2:** Can we believe that God’s love is revealed through people? On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love, a light for our world.

*The candle of love is lit.*

## **Let us pray together:**

Living God, thank you for your deep and abiding love. May we see ourselves and others through your eyes, as we follow your way of love. Come, Lord Jesus.



# Esmy's Story of Entrepreneurship in Malawi



In Balaka District, Malawi, Esmy Edward, a single mother of five, once struggled to feed her family and pay school fees for her two sons in secondary school.

Her story took a hopeful turn when she joined a program to enhance climate resilience and improve income and food security through PWS&D partner, Churches Action in Relief and Development.

Esmy learned financial management, joined a village savings and loan group, and received training in climate resilient farming techniques. She received five goats, whose manure improved her crop yields. With care and sustainable practices, her herd has grown to 10, ensuring steady food and income.

Today, Esmy's thriving farm ensures the family has reliable access to food.

"I am grateful for the support I have received," Esmy says. "Now, I can provide for my children, and I envision maintaining my house and seeing my sons finish school without difficulties."

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to support farmers as they work to provide food for today and an income for the future.**



# The Christ Candle

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**Voice 1:** In a land ruled by an empire, under the weight of oppression, a young couple search for a place for Mary to give birth, but there was no room at the inn.

**Voice 2:** In the humblest of places, the promised child is born!

**Voice 1:** In lowly circumstances, God fulfills the promise to all people. This is the meeting of heaven and earth!

**Voice 2:** The glorious light of that stable burst into the night, announcing a birth that has changed the world.  
On this night, we light the Christ candle.

*The Christ candle is lit.*

## **Let us pray together:**

Living God, may the light of Christ find a home in our hearts, in our congregations and in our world.

Hallelujah! Christ is born!



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# Christ is Born!



Hope stands resilient, even in the face of poverty, injustice and adversity.

Through PWS&D, the church answers God's call to support those in need. Together, we are working toward a brighter future for our global community by fostering sustainable solutions to overcome poverty and offering support in regions impacted by disaster, whether caused by conflict or climate change.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D addresses challenges such as hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster. Our collaborative efforts aim to restore dignity, alleviate suffering and encourage cooperation within communities.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let's keep our neighbours—both near and far—in our hearts. Your support plays a vital role in the success of this transformative mission.

**This Christmas, help spread hope, peace, joy and love across the globe by supporting PWS&D.**