



Prayers for Lighting the Conference Lamps this Advent Season

First Sunday of Advent:

Oh God, as we light this Lamp, we remember your people and congregations of the West Virginia Conference and Your promise to be with us always, even to the end of the ages.

Help us to put Your promise in context each and every day. Your promise was connected to Your Great Commission. Your promise is meant to give us strength and courage to go and make disciples of all nations. Your promise connects us to all the people You have created in this world and this promise is given to us as we share Your light with others.

Help us in the Advent season to take every opportunity to connect with Your people in our community that they too might have the opportunity of life in Your light and to become your disciples. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent:

Dear Christ and Savior of the world, as we light this Lamp, help us to remember that You came to bring us, the people of this congregation, the people of the West Virginia Conference, and the people of the world a message.

The message You came to bring us is a message of love. God so loved the world, that God gave us You and You came into the world not to condemn the world, but so that the world might have life through You. In our sinfulness, we fall short, but God loves us still and wants each one of us. While sin separates us, God's Love through You connects us.

Help us in the Advent season, to remember Your message of love and that this message is one that all people need to hear. It is Your love that transforms. Help us to shine Your light on others so that they too might be changed, forgiven, healed, and given new life through You. Amen.



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Third Sunday of Advent:

Almighty God, as we light this Lamp, we are reminded that You announce Your presence to us each and every day. You tell us that you make all things new! In this winter season, in our West Virginia Conference area, the days tend to be darker, colder, and sometimes the lack of sunlight leads people to hopelessness even in the midst of this holiday season.

May the light of this Lamp remind us that nothing can drown out your light. May the light from this Lamp remind us to discover the new life, the new beauty, the new opportunities for love and life that come with each new day as You continue to create things and people anew!

Give us courage and strength to be bearers of Your light in this colder season, so that we continually announce the joy of Your presence and the hope that you bring to all Your people. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Life-giving Lord, we light this Lamp as a sign of our adoration! O come let us adore You!! You are our hope and our strength. You are our guide and ever-present hope and help in challenging times! In You, we are all connected – we are all a part of Your body – all necessary, all valuable, all gifted, all loved.

Help us as we approach Christmas day to remember that as we adore You, You connect all of us in the Kingdom building, disciple-making work of God. Help us to walk as a child of Your light. Help us to follow and adore You more closely.

Help us to pray for and minister to Your people in our own back yards, in our West Virginia Conference and around the world that in this Christmas season and in the year to come people might come to experience Your light and to know and adore You through us. Amen.