ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING RITUAL 2021

Rev. Jennifer Casstevens-Lopez

(WEEK ONE)

ONE:

This Advent Season we will witness the joy-filled and courageous responses of Mary, Elizabeth and Hannah as they answer God’s call to be vessels through which God’s Covenant is fulfilled.

MANY:

They speak, proclaim, sing, and pray with prophetic vision, humble spirits, unwavering trust, and deep faith. Let us, during this Advent Season, allow their journeys to guide our hearts and minds as they bravely give voice to God’s promises and unfailing love.

ONE:

And Mary Said

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord let it be with me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

MANY:

Despite the awkward circumstances and societal discomfort she would endure, Mary was open to, and rejoiced in God’s call on her life. Believing that God would not abandon her, Mary set aside her fears and became a true servant of God.

ONE:

LIGHT CANDLE: 1 (Purple)

MANY:

May we too, be joyfully open to God’s call on our lives, no matter how difficult our situations, seeking to serve God and one another with courage and in the knowledge that, like Mary, God is with us in our efforts to bring great things into the world.

My soul Magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

(WEEK TWO)

ONE:

This Advent Season we will witness the joy-filled and courageous responses of Mary, Elizabeth and Hannah as they answer God’s call to be vessels through which God’s Covenant is fulfilled.

MANY:

They speak, proclaim, sing, and pray with prophetic vision, humble spirits, unwavering trust, and deep faith. Let us, during this Advent Season, allow their journeys to guide our hearts and minds as they bravely give voice to God’s promises and unfailing love.

ONE:

And Elizabeth proclaimed to Mary

“Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” (Luke 1:45)

MANY:

During Mary’s visit to her cousin, who also was miraculously with child, Elizabeth refers to Mary’s deep faith. Both these women understood that Mary’s role as the mother of Jesus was to be the ultimate fulfillment of God’s Covenant. The Messiah- Love- would be born into this world.

ONE:

LIGHT CANDLES: 2 (Purple)

MANY:

May we too, with deep faith, understand that each of us has a part in the complication of bringing God’s promise of light and love into the world.

My soul Magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

(WEEK THREE)

ONE:

This Advent Season we will witness the joy-filled and courageous responses of Mary, Elizabeth and Hannah as they answer God’s call to be vessels through which God’s Covenant is fulfilled.

MANY:

They speak, proclaim, sing, and pray with prophetic vision, humble spirits, unwavering trust, and deep faith. Let us, during this Advent Season, allow their journeys to guide our hearts and minds as they bravely give voice to God’s promises and unfailing love.

ONE:

And Mary Sang

“God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.” (Luke 1:52)

“God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.” (Luke 1:53)

In the Magnificat-Mary’s song- She sings of a reconstructed society. A world in which wealth is used not for personal gain but to create justice and peace. A world that craves moral, social, and economic equality.

ONE:

LIGHT CANDELS: 2 (Purple) 1 (Pink)

MANY:

May we too, find ourselves hungry for a world where status and labels don’t exist and riches are used to Glorify God.

My soul Magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

(WEEK FOUR)

ONE:

This Advent Season we will witness the joy-filled and courageous responses of Mary, Elizabeth and Hannah as they answer God’s call to be vessels through which God’s Covenant is fulfilled.

MANY:

They speak, proclaim, sing, and pray with prophetic vision, humble spirits, unwavering trust, and deep faith. Let us, during this Advent Season, allow their journeys to guide our hearts and

minds as they bravely give voice to God’s promises and unfailing love

ONE:

And Hannah Prayed

“My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.” (1 Samuel 2:1)

MANY:

Hannah, after many years of suffering, sings this prayer of thanksgiving for the birth of her son Samuel. Believing without doubt that the Lord knew her heart she reminds us of the powerful message that deep faith allows for God’s blessings. Finding strength in her relationship with the Lord she sought not only to do God’s will but also to be a blessing among her people.

ONE:

LIGHT CANDLES 3 (Purple )1 (Pink)

MANY:

May we too, exult the Lord and give thanks for our blessings as we seek to create an unwavering faith. Finding strength in our relationship with the Lord make us a living witness of God’s unconditional love. As people of God may we too become vessels through which the continued work of God’s promises are fulfilled.

My soul Magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior

CHRISTMAS EVE

ONE:

This Advent Season we witnessed the joy-filled and courageous responses of Mary, Elizabeth and Hannah as they answered God’s call to be vessels through which God’s Covenant was fulfilled.

MANY:

They spoke, proclaimed, sang, and prayed with prophetic vision, humble spirits, unwavering trust, and deep faith. During this Advent Season, we allowed their journeys to guide our hearts and minds as they bravely gave voice to God’s promises and unfailing love.

ONE:

AND The Angel said

“Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:10)

MANY:

When Mary gave birth to Jesus, the message from the Angel to humanity, was that through unconventional means and the utilization of One that society considered the least of these; the Messiah had been born. Here to bring Peace, Hope, Joy and Love to the world. God’s Covenant was being fulfilled.

ONE: LIGHT CANDLES 3(Purple) 1 (Pink) (Christ Candle)

MANY:

May we too, become servants of deep faith hungering for opportunities to speak, proclaim, sing and pray. Believing without doubt that the Lord knows our hearts, help us continue the work, of spreading Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. Humble our spirits and bless us as we seek to become vessels through which the Good News of God’s Covenant continues to shine.

My soul Magnifies the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior