

Opening prayers

Pastor: during these weeks of waiting in expecting, where people live in fear of the unknown

Congregation: we pray for peace

Pastor: where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the future

Congregation: we pray for guidance

Pastor: where people doubt your presence in their world

Congregation: we pray for trust

Pastor: Where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful anticipation

Congregation: we pray for wonder

Pastor: most of all, when the world longs for you

Congregation: help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy

Pastor: we pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long expected Savior.

All: Amen

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.”

As you light your candle speak these words, thinking of all those beloved by God lighting a single candle in the start of this season:

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether
For when humbly in your name
Two or three are met together
You are in the midst of them.

If you have young children or have young children in your extended family you love, sing this song, whether you are with them or not. Consider taping yourself singing it and sharing it with them electronically or sing over the phone:

Twinkle, twinkle, heaven's light
Shines within this child so bright
Guides them, safe, where 'ere they go
Through their love, the neighbor knows:
Twinkle, twinkle, heaven's light
Shines upon our world this night