

Advent Song

Written by the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Sterling '88/'98

“Below is the text of an Advent hymn I wrote because I'm really tired of the largely depressing ones in the United Methodist Hymnal. The order of the 'candle words' is always in dispute, so I chose my own order, but each verse can be 'lifted' to use as a response for weekly candle lighting, if you wish. The hymn is to the 'Hymn to Joy' tune by Beethoven ('Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee,' no. 89 in the United Methodist Hymnal). Anyone is free to use it, with appropriate credit to the author. Enjoy!” – Jeff Sterling

Advent Song [Tune: “Hymn to Joy” by Ludwig von Beethoven]

1. Joy-filled Advent candle's burning, church folk singing joyfully,
People, come and join the chorus, share our great redemption song!
Children smiling, parents watching, all anticipate the day,
When the Savior's second coming brings God's kin-dom to this place.
2. Hope is why this candle's shining, light that warms the hurting soul,
In Christ Jesus we find comfort, and the will to carry on.
In a world where darkness hovers, hope gives courage to us all,
To confront the evil powers that oppress and spread a pall.
3. Love is in this candle's brightness, fueling flames of God's embrace,
No one can escape the wideness of God's ever-present grace!
Hate is vanquished, biases cast down, by a love that will prevail,
Jesus' love is always with us, in our hearts and in the world.
4. In this candle peace burns brightly, promising God's healing hand,
Jesus, as its Prince, announces peace for all across the land.
War will end and swords and sharp spears all become the farmers' tools,
When Christ comes again in glory, claiming earth for his just rule.
5. One white candle's left unburning, 'til the birth of Christ the Lord,
Even though it's not yet lighted, still its light is shining through.
Joy and hope point to Christ's love, which will usher in God's peace,
Knowing Christ will come once more, encourages us to live in peace!

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