

### **Advent 1: Hope**

We step into the first week of Advent with hope, remembering that in the beginning, the light of the world was with God; and by the tender mercy and grace of God, the light was sent into the world in the human form of God's only son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, so that those who are in darkness may be guided by the light to walk the way of the cross, in faith, towards hope.

(Pause)

Hope... buried deep within us; covered by our disappointments, struggles and pain; yet stretching, growing and becoming, through the light of the world, born again into a new life of hope.

(Pause)

We light a candle for hope as we pray for those who are walking in darkness to seek the light and become a beacon of hope to others.

### **Advent 2: Love**

We step into the second week of Advent with love, remembering that in the beginning, the light of the world was with God; and by the tender mercy and grace of God, the light was sent into the world in the human form of God's only son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, so that those who are in darkness may be guided by the light to walk the way of the cross, in faith, towards love.

(Pause)

Love... a free gift offered by God to all who seek the light; to hold within when we need a hug, a kind word, a comforting friend or, simply, to feel the nearness of God as His love surrounds us.

(Pause)

We light a candle for love as we pray for those who are walking in darkness to seek the light and become enwrapped within God's love.

### **Advent 3: Joy**

We step into the third week of Advent with joy, remembering that in the beginning, the light of the world was with God; and by the tender mercy and grace of God, the light was sent into the world in the human form of God's only son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, so that those who are in darkness may be guided by the light to walk the way of the cross, in faith, towards joy.

(Pause)

Joy... a gift found in the presence of God as we await our saviour's coming; knowing that as we play, give, learn and love, our inner child awakens our Christ nature to show us our Saviour is already here and has been all along.

(Pause)

We light a candle for joy and pray for those who are walking in darkness to seek the light and know the power and presence of God within as we celebrate the season with joy.

## **Advent 4: Peace**

We step into the fourth week of Advent with peace, remembering that in the beginning, the light of the world was with God; and by the tender mercy and grace of God, the light was sent into the world in the human form of God's only son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, so that those who are in darkness may be guided by the light to walk the way of the cross, in faith, towards peace.

(Pause)

Peace... a white open space in your mind where you can rest in the silence, hold the presence of God in your heart, as a baby's hand wraps itself around your little finger and fills you with faith, hope, love, joy and peace.

(Pause)

We light a candle for peace and pray for those who are walking in darkness to seek the light and know the peace of God within as we celebrate the gift of Christmas.

## **The Christ Candle**

We step into Christmas Day with faith in the light of Christ, remembering that in the beginning, the light of the world was with God; and by the tender mercy and grace of God, the light was sent into the world in the human form of God's only son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour, so that those who are in darkness may seek the light and be led, by faith, to walk the way of the cross towards hope, love, joy and peace.

(Pause)

We light the Christ Candle to celebrate the kingdom of God coming amongst us as the light looked down and believed that hope, offered through unconditional and eternal love, would spread joy into a world hungering far and wide, for peace.

(Pause)

Come Lord Jesus, come. Fill our hearts with hope, love, joy and peace.

## **North Yorkshire Coast Circuit Methodist Churches Advent Contemplation 2021**

### **Faith in the Light of Christ**

Advent Week 1: 28<sup>th</sup> November:

#### **Hope**

Advent Week 2: 5<sup>th</sup> December:

#### **Love**

Advent Week 3: 12<sup>th</sup> December:

#### **Joy**

Advent Week 4: 19<sup>th</sup> December –

#### **Peace**

Christmas Day:

### **The Christ Candle**

(Created by Julie Fairweather)