

Hope Lutheran ADVENT

DECK THE HALLS

Reader One: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

Reader One: We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.



Light **Three** candles
on the wreath.

A Candle is Burning
sung to the tune of
"Away in a Manger"

A candle is burning,
a candle of JOY,

A candle to welcome
brave Mary's new
boy.

Our hearts fill with
wonder and eyes light
and glow,

As joy brightens
winter like sunshine
on snow.