

Hope Lutheran ADVENT

WAITING ON THE THRESHOLD

Reader One: We live on the brink every day. We stand on the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, between the mundane and the mystery. Too often, we forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. We forget that the love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us, right now. We forget that company is coming.

Reader Two: Luke tells us that God's favor came to a girl, an ordinary girl. It might have been you or your daughter; it might have been the girl down the street or your grandchild. But the messenger of God came and greeted her and said, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.

Reader One: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of proximity, the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.



Light **four** candles
on the wreath.

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

A candle is burning,
a candle of LOVE,

A candle to point us to
heaven above.

A baby for Christmas,
a wonderful birth,

For Jesus is bringing
God's love to our
earth.