**Christmas Eve: The Candle of Christ**

Watch and wait for Christ’s coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,

remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light the first candle in hope.

We light the second candle in peace.

We light the third candle in joy.

We light the fourth candle in love.

Now our redemption draws near!

Tonight we light the candle for Christ,

our Savior, our Redeemer,

our Hope, our Peace, our Joy, and our Love.

(Light the first candle.)

(Light the second candle.)

(Light the third candle.)

(Light the fourth candle.)

(Light the Christ candle.)

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness —

on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest….

For a child has been born for us,

a son is given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,

and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. “Alleluia! Amen!”