

ADVENT | *The Christ Candle*

All month long we have been marking the journey of Advent. Week by week, lighting the candles of Hope, of Peace, of Joy, and Love – as we wait for Christmas to arrive. Today, we light the final one at the centre of it all: the Christ candle. Signaling that the journey of waiting is over, and Jesus has come.

If you have been practicing this along with us at home – let's light it together. [\[LIGHT CANDLE\]](#)

(Roughly) 750 years before Jesus was born to Mary, a prophet by the name of Isaiah spoke these words about the coming he knew would one day be a reality:

“Comfort, oh comfort my people,”
says your God.
“Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem,
make it very clear
That she has served her sentence,
that her sin is taken care of—forgiven!
She’s been punished enough and more than enough,
and now it’s over and done with.”
Thunder in the desert!
“Prepare for GOD’s arrival!
Make the road straight and smooth,
a highway fit for our God.
Fill in the valleys,
level off the hills,
Smooth out the ruts,
clear out the rocks.
Then GOD’s bright glory will shine
and everyone will see it.
Yes. Just as GOD has said.”

[\(Isaiah 40:1-5 MSG\)](#)

Tonight, even though we know we're still living in a world that's been broken by sin, disappointment/heartache and loss, we still genuinely rejoice with hope, with peace and with love, that we are *also* living in a world that is absolutely bathed in light, and making its way closer and closer towards restoration every day. When we can see it, and even when we can't.

Because Jesus *has* come. And he is setting all things right. And *in a crazy twist...* he is even inviting us into that work together with him.

So as we sang earlier, despite everything 2020 has brought, tonight as we watch all these flames flicker together, let's let ourselves feel the thrill of hope, as a weary world rejoices. Because a child has come, who has changed everything.