

Worshipful Work And the Christ Candle

Opening a Meeting with the Christ Candle

Each meeting should be opened with the lighting of the Christ Candle and the reading of an appropriate scripture. The candle burns throughout the entire meeting, a visual reminder of God's presence.

It is extinguished when adjourning for meals, and at the close of the day the candle is extinguished and prayers are offered to God.

The Christ Candle and a Meeting that Lasts Several Days

The scripture to be used with the Christ Candle for a meeting that lasts several days will provide not only a central focus but continuity.

The Christ Candle, lighted after reading a scripture passage that is related to a meeting theme, acknowledges the light that Jesus brings into the world.

Before adjourning for a meal, read an appropriate scripture, extinguish the candle, and offer the blessing for the meal.

The Candle During the Meeting

Before adjourning for a meal, a scripture is read, the candle is extinguished, and the blessing for the meal is offered. On returning from a meal, a scripture is read, the candle is lighted, and a convening prayer is offered.

Closing the Meeting and Ending the Day

As the meeting is closed, the candle is extinguished and a scripture is read.

Service 1 for Lighting and Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Lighting the Candle

Opening: God is with us; we are not alone.
God created; God came to dwell among us;
God is with us still.

Let us pray: O God, we see you in many ways:
in creation's beauty and terror,
in law's command and conscience,
in love's strength and tenderness.
but most clearly we see you in Jesus.
Keep us gazing on him.

Bless us in Christ,
for we long to be your own people.
Amen.

At this time the candle may be lit using the words below:

Light is a gift from God, a gift to be shared.
Jesus came into our midst as the light of the world,
and the Holy spirit is present to illumine our work and witness.
Go forth into this day mindful of the light and love of God.

Extinguishing the Candle

Light is a gift from God, a gift to be shared.
Jesus came into our midst as the light of the world,
and the Holy spirit is present to illumine our work and witness.
May the light of God guide us into this evening and rest from our labors.

Service 2 for Lighting and Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Lighting the Candle

Opening: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. In Christ we are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to praise of the glory of God. (Ephesians 1:3-13)

Let us pray: O Spirit praying within our prayers,
help us remember those we forget
thank those we overlook,
bless those we ignore,
and forgive those we forget.
Join our prayers to the prayers of your own people everywhere
that we may know the fullness of Christ
who fills all in all.
Amen.

At this time the candle may be lit using the words below:

For Christ is our peace, who has broken down the dividing wall, the hostility between us. We are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are citizens with the saints, members of the household of God.

This is the light of Christ breaking into our lives, crumbling walls, setting us free to live, work and love wholly!.

Extinguishing the Candle

For Christ is our peace, who has broken down the dividing wall, the hostility between us. We are no longer strangers and aliens, but we are citizens with the saints, members of the household of God.

We receive our light from God. Sometimes it comes through the witness of others. Thank you, God, for light shared with us today. Now we go forth to rest letting our light shine.

Service 3 for Lighting and Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Lighting the Candle

Opening: Let no one deceive you with empty words. For once you were like night, but now in Christ you are light. Love as children of light—for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5:8-10)

Let us pray: Dear Jesus,
We walked the world's course through loneliness and sin,
until, by grace, we heard your story and joined your people.
The walk is not over;
there's still some loneliness and some sin,
but we're walking with you, Jesus.
Our way of life is becoming your way.
Bless us.
Amen.

At this time the candle may be lit using the words below:

You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before others. (Matthew 5:14-15).

This light reminds us that God is fully and completely with us now and through this day.

Extinguishing the Candle

You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hid.
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket,
but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house.
In the same way, let your light shine before others. (Matthew 5:14-15).

Day is done and night has come.
Be committed to one another out of reverence for Christ
even as we take our rest.

Service 4 for Lighting and Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Lighting the Candle

Opening: We are taught to put away our former way of life, our old self, to be renewed in the spirit or our minds, and to clothe ourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. So then, put away falsehood and let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors. (Ephesians 4:22-25)

Let us pray: Christ, you are our peace.
Break down the dividing walls.
Christ you are our peace.
Stop the name-calling.
Christ, you are our peace.
Abolish the score keeping.
Christ, you are our peace.
Settle the community.
Christ, you are our peace.
Transform us as God's dwelling place.
Christ, you are our peace.
Amen.

At this time the candle may be lit using the words below:

Be imitators of God, and live in love as Christ lives in us. The light of Christ!.

Extinguishing the Candle

Be strong in Christ and in the strength of Christ's power. Peace be to the whole community.