



Christmas 2023

Candle lighting reflections

Week 1: Living with hope

The arrival of a new baby is an exciting time. We hope the baby will arrive safely, that they will be healthy.

The Wise Men travelled a great distance hoping for the safe arrival of a new king [light the candle].

We also wait with hope as we prepare for Christmas.

Week 2: Living with love

The arrival of a new baby is an exciting time. Our hearts are filled with love for the child even before they are born.

Mary was thankful for the life growing inside of her. She deeply loved the child who would one day teach the world about the depth of God's love [light the candle].

We also wait with hearts full of love as we prepare for Christmas.

Week 3: Living with peace

The arrival of a new baby is an exciting time. It can also be an anxious time – a new baby can turn our lives upside down!

The birth of Jesus, the Messiah, was expected to bring drastic change, not just to his family, but to the world. In the midst of this, angels proclaimed God's peace on Earth [light the candle].

We also wait with God's peace in our hearts as we prepare for Christmas.

Week 4: Living with joy

The arrival of a new baby is an exciting time. There is a lot to do. People need to be told the wonderful news.

The shepherds listened with wonder and responded with joy as the angels announced the birth of Jesus [light the candle].

We also feel joy as we prepare for Christmas.

Week 5: Living with the Good News

The wait is over. Hope, peace, love and joy ... it's a lot to expect of one small baby. But this is no ordinary baby.

This is the Good News – A child is born to us, a son is given to us. Amazing Counsellor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness (Isaiah 9, The Message). His rule and his peace will never end [light the candle].

There will be no limit to the wholeness that he brings.