

Candle Lighting Litanies for the Church Year

by Kimberlee Conway Ireton

In our home, we begin our evening meal by lighting a candle and saying a short litany. I've listed the color of the candle for each season and what that color means as well as the litany.

Advent

Purple: repentance

Pink: joy (3rd week)

We sing the first verse of "O Come O Come Emmanuel" when we light the candle.

Christmas/Epiphany

White: purity, joy

Candle lighter: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
Everyone else: The Light no darkness can overcome!

Lent

Purple: repentance

Candle lighter: Create in me a pure heart, O God,
Everyone else: And renew a right spirit within me.

Easter

White: purity, joy

Candle lighter: Christ is risen!
Everyone else: Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Pentecost

Red: fire (the coming of the Holy Spirit in flames like fire)

Candle lighter: God's love has been poured into our hearts
Everyone else: Through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Ordinary Time

Green: growth

Candle lighter: Bless the Lord.
Everyone else: The Lord's name be praised!

Kimberlee Conway Ireton is the author of *The Circle of Seasons: Meeting God in the Church Year*.