

## THE CANDLES OF ADVENT

The **First Candle** of the Advent wreath has been called the **Candle of Prophecy**. It represents the spirit of peace which God promised through the prophets and which the people awaited during the years when they longed for the promised Savior. We think about God's people waiting for the peace of the coming Messiah.

### Lessons for The First Sunday in Advent, Series C

Jeremiah 33:14-16 – *God promised safety for His people through the righteous branch of David.*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 – *God's faithful ones will be kept holy by the righteousness of Christ until His return.*

Luke 21:25-36 – *The fig tree is a symbol of God's protection and His enduring word of promise.*

**God's Promise of Peace** – In Jeremiah's day, God promised to set things right once again, through the promised Branch from King David's family tree. Jerusalem will be kept in safety and all of God's people made holy through the righteousness of Jesus Christ, the Branch of David, when He comes again at the end of days. Jesus pointed to a fig tree as a sign that even in the distress of these latter days, we may expect our redemption in the Person of Christ Himself, just as surely as summer follows the leaves of spring.

The things that disrupt our peace are not only nations in anguish and apprehensions of what may come. Our hearts are weighed down with anxieties that we bring upon ourselves by our sinful living. We need something solid to cling to – or some peace-maker to cling to us! Christ Jesus is the strong Branch of David's line, King of God's realm of peace, who has strengthened our troubled hearts and made us blameless and holy by righteous sacrifice.

**A Prayer for Advent 1:** Lord Jesus, help me watch faithfully for Your return just as Your people of old awaited Your birth so many years ago. Help me hold firmly to Your promises and share that faith joyfully with others. Amen.