

12 Living Lights



Rev. Kelly Isola created
this candle lighting ceremony
using the elements of the Christmas story.

It is a way to remember
the Twelve Powers of humankind
as twelve living lights,
always expressing,
always unfolding.

BLUE IS FAITH: MARY

Mary has a very special place in our hearts because she is the quintessential activity of faith. The angel Gabriel, a divine visitor, knocked on the door of her heart, asking her to do the impossible. The news probably brought some fear and filled her with questions. Yet the moment she stepped forward in faith and into an unknown future, she created a space within herself for infinite possibilities to be born.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Faith – the light that calls us to forgive more fully and love more deeply. It calls each of us to be greater than we could have ever imagined.

LIGHT GREEN IS STRENGTH: SHEPHERDS

In the Gospel of Luke, the shepherds are tending to their sheep when the angels appear. They are doing what they have done for generations, watching over what is precious and necessary for life. They represent the enduring, living light of Strength – the power and purity of steadfast perseverance we embody as we navigate life. The shepherds are that voice within reminding us we are not alone.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Strength – the light that carried us through our joys and our sufferings. The light of strength allows us to watch over what is most precious in our own lives because we know God is everywhere present.

YELLOW IS WISDOM: THE THREE WISE MEN

In the time of Jesus, the Magi, or wise men, had wisdom by being in touch with another reality. When they had the vision of Jesus' birth, they chose to act on it – at great risk to their own wellbeing. The Magi represent our capacity to seek guidance and answers, and to use that wisdom to create a world that works for all.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Wisdom - the light that is the link between our divine and human nature. Wisdom directs us to act as love, compassion, joy, peace and all divine ideas, bringing the invisible work into reality.

PINK IS LOVE: GIFTS OF THE MAGI

In the Gospel of Mathew, the gifts the wise men bring to Jesus are gold, frankincense, and myrrh – rare, precious, and priceless in Jesus' world. The Magi traveled from faraway nations, and knelt before the Christ child as a sign of love and devotion. These gifts remind us that we are each worthy of giving and receiving the priceless gift of love and belonging.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of love – the light reminding us the Christmas story heralds the birth of a person who loved selflessly, and any person who loves in this way is fully alive with the gifts of the Magi.

PURPLE IS POWER: BETHLEHEM

In Hebrew, Bethlehem literally translates as "house of bread." In early Christianity, it began to mean "house of living bread," which we would call the power of Truth. This power is the foundation on which we stand, infusing our words, thoughts, and deeds to transform the world.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Power – the light that is the embodiment of the Christ. We leave echoes of perfection when speaking words of Truth. The power of our presence in the world is the greatest gift we can offer humanity.

LIGHT BLUE IS IMAGINATION: STAR OF BETHLEHEM

In the Gospel of Matthew, the wise men were guided by the Star of Bethlehem to the newborn baby. It lit their path, allowing them to follow a way to the beginning of a new world. The star symbolizes our ability to imagine and envision a transformed world, and follow that vision to express the Christ.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Imagination – the light we use to create and give shape to the sacred, and to form God into what the world needs most: joy, love, courage, and peace.

GOLD IS UNDERSTANDING: JOSEPH

Joseph, husband of Mary and father to Jesus, inspires us to view life through another's eyes. Joseph's character is strong and quiet, yet he has a desire to know the work in a more profound way, regardless of his challenges.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Understanding – the light that is our ability to stretch and see with new eyes, taking in all that is happening not just with our senses, but also with our hearts and minds. This spiritual understanding leads us to knowing the peace that surpasses all human understanding.

SILVER IS WILL: THE ANGEL GABRIEL

The angel Gabriel comes to Mary to let her know she will miraculously give birth to a child. Little did she know he would become a Way Shower for the world on how to love, give, and forgive. The word *angel* means "messenger from God." This divine visitor knocking on Mary's heart with a message that seems impossible reminds us that our "angels" represent the will of our higher self, leading and calling us to forgive more fully and love more deeply.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Will - the light that is our willingness to say "yes" to that which is calling us to be greater than we could have ever imagined.

DARK GREEN IS DIVINE ORDER: MANGER

The writer of Luke tells us that when Jesus was born he was wrapped in cloth and laid in a manger. This is an extraordinarily humble beginning, yet this simple, often unseen, barnyard trough is a symbol for that current of spiritual law that is ever-present and always accessible.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Divine Order – the light that is the naturally ordered, hidden, current of life we are always aligning with in order to bring forth a world in a balanced and harmonious way.

ORANGE IS ZEAL: HEAVENLY HOSTS

The prophet Isaiah wrote that a child will be born, the Prince of Peace, and heavenly hosts will express the "zeal of the Lord." In the Gospel of Luke, the heavenly hosts ring out the song of Jesus' birth. "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts..." - a truly awe-inspiring image to represent the universal force that urges us to grow and enthusiastically move forward in life.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Zeal – the light that is the inward fire of the soul, passionately springing forward to manifest our Christ Nature here on earth.

RUSSET IS RELEASE: PROPHETS AND KING DAVID

In the scripture, Jesus' lineage and connection to King David are highlighted, as are the prophets who foretold the coming of a Messiah. These characters show us that, while our story matters – where, who, and what we come from – they also invite us to see what we may need to let go of on our spiritual journey.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Release – the light of surrendering to Spirit and releasing old thoughts, feelings, and experiences that are not for our highest good.

RED IS LIFE: JESUS

Christmas comes at the darkest time of the year, the setting in which Jesus' birth stories were written. Is it any wonder then that we yearn for the rich language of light – luminous, blazing, glowing, illuminating, radiant, sparking, shining, brilliant? Light is deep within us as the symbol of what is most sacred, divine, and alive. It is life itself.

We light this candle to acknowledge our living light of Life – which is the expression of vitality, wholeness, and creativity, as demonstrated by Jesus. His birth and life remind us, show us, that we are infused with that same divine presence he embodied, and have the power and potential to express the eternal activity of God in all things and in all ways.