



#59948

THE FOUR CANDLES A Litany

Materials needed:

- Four signs for readers to wear – Peace, Love, Faith and Hope
- Candles – one of each color – green, red, white and yellow
- Circular stand for candles (can be made from a Styrofoam ring)

People needed:

- One person dressed in black (acolyte) to light and extinguish the candles.
- Four readers (one for each candle) – they will each wear one of the signs: Peace, Love, Faith or Hope. (Note: This will be more effective if readers memorize their parts.)
- One reader to read the Bible passages. This person should have a strong voice or use a microphone and will remain out of sight.

The circular stand has the green (peace), white (faith) and red (love) candles in place. There is an empty hole in the front for the yellow candle (hope.)

The Acolyte lights the green, white and red candles in the stand, then stands off to the side with the candle snuffer. After each person speaks, (except for Hope) the Acolyte will gently extinguish the candle and walk back to the side. The person with the candle remains in place.

Peace: *(walks in and takes the green candle out of the stand.)*
I am Peace, but these days, nobody wants to keep me.

Reader: *“I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.”* Job 3:26

Faith: *(walks in and takes the white candle out of the stand.)*
I am Faith, but these days I am no longer indispensable.

Reader: *“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.”* Matthew 24:10-11

Love: *(walks in and takes the red candle out of the stand.)*
I am Love and I haven't the strength to stay lit any longer. People put me aside and don't understand my importance. They even forget to love those nearest to them.

Reader: *“If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.” 1 John 4:20*

Hope: *(walks in with the yellow candle already lit, stands in front of the other three)*
I am Hope and while I still burn, we all can stay lit and burn brightly for all to see.

(Hope turns to the other three candle holders and says)

Don't be afraid. Gather round. Let us turn to the Word of God, our Everlasting Light.

(Hope lights the other three candles again.)

Reader: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

(Peace places the candle back in the holder while the reader continues.)

Reader: *“May the God of peace...equip you with everything to do his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20a, 21*

(Peace moves and stand behind the candle stand.)

(Faith places the candle back in the holder while the reader continues.)

Reader: *“A faithful man will be richly blessed.” Proverbs 28:20a*
Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
Revelation 2:10b

(Faith stands next to Peace.)

(Love places the candle back in the holder while the reader continues.)

Reader: *“But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:44, 45a*

(Love stands next to Faith.)

(Hope places the candle back in the holder while the reader continues.)

Reader: *“A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching of entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior.” Titus 1:2-3*

(Hope stands next to Love.)

All four of the people who were holding candles say together:

*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all
people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”
Luke 2:29-32*

“Come...let us walk in the light of the Lord.” Isaiah 2:5

Everyone joins in singing: *Thou Light of Gentile Nations TLH #138*

*(As the singing begins, all four of the candle holder readers file out, followed by
the Bible reader and the Acolyte. The candles stay lit until the end of the service
or meeting is over.)*

All Scripture is from NIV.