

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a tangible way of marking time during the season of Advent. Each Sunday we light the candles on the Advent wreath, first one candle, then two, then three, and finally all four candles.

Some traditions say that the candles represent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Often a fifth candle – the Christ candle – will be lit with the others on Christmas Eve.

As we light the candles each week or each evening they remind us that we are drawing closer to the day of Christ's birth and to the Light of Christ.

You are invited to use the four tealights in the kit to make your own Advent wreath at home. As you light the candles you can hold silence, say a prayer, or name a hope you have during this season.



Suggestions for making your own Advent Wreath at home:

- Cut a circle out of white or colored paper. Color your wreath with decorations, like leaves and holly berries. Set the four tea lights on top of the circle.
- Cut leaf shapes from green paper. Glue the leaves together into a circle shape. Set the four tea lights on top of the circle.
- Gather branches, twigs, or pinecones from outside. Lay or twist into a circle shape. Set the tea lights inside the circle. Be sure the branches won't go into the flames!
- Gather objects from around your house that remind you of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. Arrange your objects in a circle. Set the four tea lights in the center of the circle.

Prayers for Lighting the Advent Wreath

Week I Come, O Holy One, as the morning light after a wakeful night! Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us an accounting of our lives; help us to love you and love one another in all we do, and so clothe us with your light that we may bring others to love you also, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

Week II Come, O Holy One, as the water of life and refiner's fire! Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice that in all the creation and among every people your peace may be established and your joy abound, through Jesus our Deliverer. Amen.

Week III Come, O Holy One, breaker of chains and renewer of life! Open our eyes to your presence in all the earth. Stir us to proclaim gladly the signs of your love: the liberation of those oppressed, the healing of those frail and broken, springs of water in all the parched places, and Jesus Christ risen and alive, through whom we pray. Amen.

Week IV Come, O Holy One, as the beloved child, Emmanuel! Soften our hearts and open our arms for your coming that we may make this a place worthy and warm, kindly and safe for all your children, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

From Jennifer Philips
www.aqlm2013.blogspot.com

First Sunday of Advent Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE. *One candle is lit.*

Scripture: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. Psalm 33:20

Prayer: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle is HOPE, the second is PEACE. *Two candles are lit.*

Scripture: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. Colossians 3:15

Prayer: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle is HOPE, the second is PEACE, and the third is JOY." *Three candles are lit.*

Scripture: You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12

Prayer: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. The first candle is HOPE, the second is PEACE, the third is JOY, and the fourth is LOVE. *Four candles are lit.*

Scripture: Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34

Prayer: Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.

From the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski