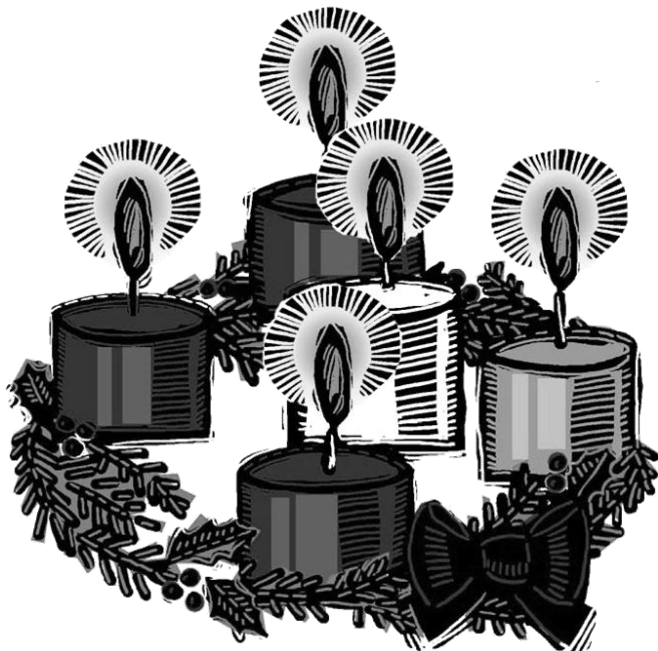


ADVENT 2010



HOME
ADVENT WREATH
GUIDE

Set up an Advent wreath to use in your home in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

An Advent wreath contains five candles - four in a circle and one in the centre. The circle represents the eternity of God, and the four candles are usually blue or purple. The centre candle is usually white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



First Week of Advent *(November 28 – December 4)*

In the first week of Advent light the first candle, and say these words:

Say: This is the first week of Advent. Advent means “coming”. We are waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of waiting. *(The candle is lit).*

Read: *Read one of the following seven passages each day: Psalm 27:14; Psalm 33:20; Isaiah 30:18; Isaiah 51:5; Isaiah 64:4; Lamentations 3:25-26; Micah 7:7.*

Pray: **God, make us patient as we wait for Jesus to return. Help us to take him into our hearts and home this Christmas as Savior. Amen.**

Second Week of Advent *(December 5-11)*

In the second week of Advent light the first and second Advent candles, and say these words:



Say: This is the second week of Advent. We light our second candle to remind us that this is the season of hope. Jesus came to bring us hope, and we live in hope for him to come again. *(The candles are lit).*

Read: *Read one of the following seven passages each day: Psalm 52:9; Psalm 130:7; Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 12:18-21; Romans 15:12; 2 Corinthians 1:10; Hebrews 10:23.*

Pray: **God, in this time of preparation for Christmas, gives us new hope. Increase our faith in your Son Jesus and our trust in your promises. Amen.**

Third Week of Advent *(December 12-18)*

In the third week of Advent light the first, second and third Advent candles, and say these words:

Say: This is the third week of Advent. We light our third candle, the candle of joy. The good news of Jesus' birth gives us reason to be joyful. He came to save us from our sins and bring us back to God. *(The candles are lit).*

Read: *Read one of the following seven passages each day: Psalm 30:11-12; Psalm 47:1-2; Psalm 95:1-3; Isaiah 44:23; Luke 1:46-47; Luke 2:8-12; Jude 24-25.*

Pray: **God, as we draw nearer to the celebration of Jesus' birth, please fill us with joy and gladness. Help us to share the good news of Jesus' birth with others. Amen.**



Fourth Week of Advent *(December 19-23)*

On December 19-23 light all four blue or purple candles on your Advent Wreath and say these words:

Say: This is the fourth and last week of Advent. Together with the candles of waiting, hope and joy, we light the candle of peace. At the birth of Jesus the angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Jesus came to give us peace with God. Through him we can live at peace with one another. *(The candles are lit).*

Read: *Read one of the following passages each day:*
Isaiah 9:6; Isaiah 55:12; Ezekiel 37:26-27; Micah 5:2,4-5;
Zechariah 9:9-10.

Pray: **O God, as the season of Advent draws to a close we are excited at the coming of Christmas. In our excitement, help us not to forget the reason for our celebrations. Thank you for Jesus, our Savior and Prince of Peace. Bless our home with your peace. Amen.**

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day *(December 24-25)*

On Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day light the centre "Christ candle" as well as all four blue or purple candles. Say these words:

Say: Christmas is here. Our time of waiting is over. We light our centre candle to symbolize the birth of Jesus, the Light of true life who has come into the world. We celebrate all that has come into our lives through Jesus – the grace, hope, joy, peace and love of God.

Read: *Read one or both of the following passages:*
Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1-14.

Pray: **God, thank you for the wonderful gift of Jesus, the best present of all. Fill our hearts and our home with your hope, joy, peace and love this Christmas season, so that we shine as bright lights for you. Amen.**