



THE ADVENT WREATH

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit, and sometimes a fifth candle is lit on Christmas. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Each of the candles represents an aspect or preparation during the season of Advent.

BLESSING OF THE WREATH

God of love, may this wreath and its light remind us that Jesus came to save us from our sin. Bless this wreath and all who gather around it as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas. Come, Lord Jesus, bring hope, faith, and life to our world.

WEEK 1: December 3rd through December 9th: HOPE (purple)

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we look forward to Jesus' coming with hope.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in You as we celebrate this Advent season. Amen

WEEK 2: December 10th through December 16th: PEACE (purple)

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation of Jesus' coming.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, fill us with Your peace. Amen

WEEK 3: December 17th through December 23rd: JOY (pink)

This third candle is pink, symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas.

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with the hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen

WEEK 4: December 24th through December 24th: LOVE (purple)

During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of His Son: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16-17

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen