

CELEBRATE ADVENT



ADVENT WREATH

Did you know that Advent wreaths were originally used in the home? They didn't become popular in churches until the middle of the twentieth century.

How to Make an Advent Wreath

Put four candles on a green wreath, or put four candles in a circle. The color of the candles is your choice. Blue candles are a symbol of hope. Purple candles are a symbol of royalty, and also of repentance. If purple candles are used, a rose colored candle can be included for the Third Sunday of Advent. You can also add a fifth white candle in the middle of the circle.

How to Use Your Advent Wreath

The idea is to use the Advent Wreath in your personal or family devotions on the four Sundays of Advent. Using the Advent Wreath each week, you will get a stair-step effect – each candle will be a different length.

Share with your children lighting the candles at the beginning of each devotion (remember to snuff them out when finished).

- On the first Sunday of Advent, light the first candle.
- On the second Sunday of Advent, light two candles, first the one from the previous Sunday, then light the second candle.
- On the third Sunday of Advent, light the two candles from the previous weeks, in the order you lit them before, then light the third candle.
- On the fourth Sunday of Advent, light the three candles from the previous weeks, in the order you lit them before, then light the fourth candle. You should get a stair-step effect, since each candle is a different length by now.

If you have a fifth white candle in the center, on Christmas Day light the four candles in the order

they were lit before, and then light the center candle.

At the end of each service, snuff out the candles. This has absolutely no liturgical significance whatsoever, but it is vitally important. It prevents the candles from burning your house down. I recommend that you snuff out the candles, rather than blowing them out. If you blow out the candles, you might spray hot wax over everything.

When you use an Advent Wreath in personal or family devotions, you can use whatever scriptures and prayers you like. Inside is a model service to help get you started, here is something to get you started. Please don't take it as a set form. You can use different readings, you can modify the prayers, and you can add hymns, carols, or other words as you like.

OTHER ADVENT TRADITIONS

ADVENT CALENDAR

An Advent Calendar is a way of counting down from the First Sunday of Advent to Christmas.

Each day, you open one window or flap in the Advent Calendar (usually they are numbered in sequence), to discover what is behind the window.

Some calendars have Scripture verses appropriate for the day. Some calendars have pictures and images of Advent and Christmas. Some have suggestions for celebrating each day of Advent and Christmas.

JESSE TREE

The 11th chapter of Isaiah describes the ideal king in the line of Israel's great king, David. The first verse of that chapter says,

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

Jesse is the father of David, and the idea here is to trace the line of Israel's great king back to Adam and forward to Jesus.

This tradition involves placing symbols on a green branch or tree tracing the lineage or genealogy of Jesus back to Adam. Here are 25 symbols (with scripture references) for a Jesse Tree.

Person	Symbol	Scripture Passage
Adam	Male Figure	Genesis 2:7
Eve	Female Figure	Genesis 2:21-23
Noah	Rainbow	Genesis 9:11-17
Abraham	Tree	Genesis 18:1
Sarah	Tent	Genesis 18:9-14
Isaac	Ram	Genesis 22:13-14
Rebekah	Camel	Genesis 24:63-67
Jacob	Ladder	Genesis 28:10-17
Rachel	Shepherd's Crook	Genesis 29:9-12
Joseph	Colorful Coat	Genesis 37:3
Moses	Burning Bush	Exodus 3:1-6
Miriam	Music Notes	Exodus 15:20-21
Deborah	Palm Tree	Judges 4:4-5
Samuel	Lamp	1 Samuel 3:1-3
Ruth	Straw	Ruth 2:1-9
Jesse	Branch	Isaiah 11:1
David	Harp	1 Samuel 16:17-18
Solomon	Columns	1 Kings 5:2-5
Hezekiah	Law Tablets	2 Kings 18:1-6
Josiah	Book	2 Kings 23:1-3
Isaiah	Throne	Isaiah 6:1
Elizabeth	Dove	Luke 1:39-45
John the Baptist	River	Matthew 3:1-6
Mary	Angel	Luke 1:26-35
Jesus	Manger	Luke 2:1-7

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FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Gathering around the wreath

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray.

One candle is lit during the prayer.

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, We open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen

O Joyous Light [Phos Hilaron]

All: Joyous Light of glory:
of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ!
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light,
we sing to God:
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy of being praised
by pure voices forever,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
the universe proclaims your glory.

Scripture Reading

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13
Monday	Isaiah 1:16-18
Tuesday	Isaiah 60:1-3
Wednesday	Psalms 43: 3-5
Thursday	Isaiah 58:6-9
Friday	1 John 2:8-11
Saturday	1 John 3:1-2

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Let us pray

All: ***The Lord's Prayer***

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Gathering around the wreath

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray.

Two candles are lit during the prayer.

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, We thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen

O Joyous Light [Phos Hilaron]

All: Joyous Light of glory:
of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ!
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light,
we sing to God:
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy of being praised
by pure voices forever,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
the universe proclaims your glory.

Scripture Reading

Sunday	Isaiah 40:1-5
Monday	Revelation 1:7-8
Tuesday	Matthew 22:41-45
Wednesday	Hosea 11:3-4
Thursday	Psalms 130
Friday	Micah 6:6-8
Saturday	Jeremiah 14:8-9

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Let us pray

All: ***The Lord's Prayer***

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Gathering around the wreath

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray.

Three candles are lit during the prayer.

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

O Joyous Light [Phos Hilaron]

All: Joyous Light of glory:
of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ!
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light,
we sing to God:
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy of being praised
by pure voices forever,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
the universe proclaims your glory.

Scripture Reading

Sunday	Isaiah 9:6-7
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-6
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:10-11
Thursday	Isaiah 52:7
Friday	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Saturday	Malachi 3:1-2

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Let us pray

All: ***The Lord's Prayer***

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Gathering around the wreath

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray.

Four candles are lit during the prayer.

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

O Joyous Light [Phos Hilaron]

All: Joyous Light of glory:
of the immortal Father;
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ!
We have come to the setting of the sun,
and we look to the evening light,
we sing to God:
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy of being praised
by pure voices forever,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
the universe proclaims your glory.

Scripture Reading

Sunday	John 3:16-21
Monday	Luke 1:1-25
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Luke 1:39-56
Thursday	Luke 1:57-66
Friday	Luke 1:67-80
Dec. 24	Matthew 1:18-25

Reader: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Let us pray

All: ***The Lord's Prayer***

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.