

THE ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath [this can be a simple drawing to colour in, or something more elaborate], consisting of a circle of evergreens, symbolising the eternal nature of God and the continuing and everlasting life that comes from God

through Christ. The four candles [3 purple – symbolising repentance - and 1 pink – 3rd week, reminds us that we are drawing nearer to Christmas Day], mark the four weeks of Advent, and attest to the truth of Jesus as the Light of the World [John 3. 17-21].

BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH

Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All: Who made heaven and earth

Leader: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

Reading: Isaiah 9. 1-2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Blessing:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.

Lord our God, we praise you for your son, Jesus Christ; he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples; he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us; he is the Saviour of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

HOPE

PEACE

FANTH

JOY

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

The First Candle, purple, represents HOPE
It is called the “Prophet’s Candle”.

The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah’s arrival. “Hope does not disappoint us” [Romans 5.5]

The purple colour symbolizes royalty, repentance and fasting.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

The second candle, purple, represents FAITH.
It is called the “Bethlehem Candle”

The prophet Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

It is also a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle."

To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too.

In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle."

The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace.

He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

This colour is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

FIFTH CANDLE

represents **light and purity** and is called
"Christ's candle."

It is placed in the middle and is lit on
Christmas Day. This candle is white to
represent pure light and victory.