



Prayers Around the Advent Wreath

Compiled By The Rev. Joshua Barrett

Welcome to Advent

"As far back as the fourth century, Christians have been observing Advent as a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

In fact, Advent prepares for two different comings; the first is Jesus' birth at Bethlehem 2000 years ago, and the second is his final coming at the end of time. The various themes of Advent lead us back and forth between two poles; the fact God has already acted decisively on our behalf in Jesus' and the acknowledgment that there is still much work to be done to bring the kingdom to completion.

Advent starts out quietly. The Mass readings and orations pointing out that the kingdom is, in fact, already present in our midst. Then, on the second Sunday of Advent, the pace picks up when John the Baptist enters the scene proclaiming his message of repentance. By the third week the season is building to a crescendo; the readings start to focus on the first coming of Christ in the flesh, including the gospel accounts of the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the birth of John the Baptist.

Finally, the climax comes with the birth of Christ at Christmas, a celebration that the church prolongs for a full week."

"From Holidays to Holy Days": A Benedictine Walk through Advent

Br. Albert Holtz, OSB



Try using all white candles instead of multi-colored. This adds simplicity to your waiting candles.

Light the respective candles each time you sit down for dinner. Recite the prayer for the week.



Make your own advent wreath at home. Any candles or seasonal decor would work! Have fun with it!

Consider sharing a meal over zoom with those who are alone each lighting candles.





Blessing the Wreath



(pause for a moment and then make the sign of the cross)

Lord God, bless this wreath and bless us as well. May this wreath remind us of the hope and joy that Jesus brings into the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

Advent means “arrival.” In the season of Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus. We recall the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future with hope. We prepare to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but also his presence in our family. We wait for the return of the Lord at the end of time when all hopes will be fulfilled. We await the coming of the light that will shine in the darkness, shining light on our path to peace.

Read: Matthew 5:14-16

(All pray the Lord's Prayer)



An Evening Prayer

Conclude your devotions with this prayer

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Taken from the "An Order of Worship for the Evening"
in the Book of Common Prayer (1979)*



Advent 1

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Each candle has a meaning.

This first candle is HOPE.

The candles are lit

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.

Read: Psalm 33:20



Advent 2

Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE.

The candles are lit

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.

Read: Romans 15:13



Advent 3

Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY

The candles are lit

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.

Read: Isaiah 55:12



Advent 4

Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

The candles are lit

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.

Read: 1 John 4:7-10



Christmas

“Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle.

The candles are lit

O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.

Read: John 1:1-18

Thanks and Sources

Thank you to Loyola Press.com for the Wreath Blessing:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/about-advent/advent-links-to-explore-and-share/blessing-an-advent-wreath/>

Prayers for each day written by **The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski** (Adapted)
<https://buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Advent-Wreath-Liturgy.pdf>

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