

Making an Advent Wreath

Many homes include the lighting of an Advent wreath as part of their prayer and reflection time, during the four weeks of the Advent season. The two key elements of the wreath are the ring of greens and the five candles. The candles are lit, with one added each week, on Sunday, as we count down to Christmas day. On Christmas day, we light the white or Christ candle to signify Christ's arrival.

The candlelight is a reminder of both the passing of time and the coming of Christ, the Light of the World. The evergreens and the shape of the wreath/circle, have long been symbols of eternity. So as we light the wreath, we are reminded of the birth of Christ, brought to us by an everlasting God with an everlasting love.

Some homes have an advent wreath they reuse from year to year. If you do not, they can be easily made. A homemade wreath can be constructed by placing five candles/candlesticks (traditionally, three candles are purple, one is pink, and one is white) on a dinner plate or round tray. Then position sprigs of evergreen and holly around the edges to create the circle.



JOY

December 13, 2020

Pause

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**All: those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them, light has shined.**

One: By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

**All: to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

One: We light this Advent candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

*[One person lights two of the **purple** candles and the **pink** candle]*

To the candles of hope and peace, we add the candle of joy.

Joy is sometimes gentle and sometimes stubborn.

Joy shouts to the world, but also whispers to our hearts.

It does not depend upon our circumstances; it depends only upon God — which means joy is far more powerful than we often realize.

The light of Christ is coming into the world.

Ponder

Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

How would you describe "joy"? How can we bring joy to others in our circles...of friends, of classmates, of co-workers?

Pray

Dear God, thank you for all the things and people that bring joy into our lives. Help us to be people who spread joy in difficult times. Amen.

