



ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

ANGLICAN CHURCH



Advent Prayers

The Advent Wreath

The symbolism of the Advent Wreath is rich.

It is a circle, reminding us that God and God's love have no beginning and no end. We are always surrounded by God's presence.

Evergreens symbolize the hope that people who love God will live forever with God.

The five candles are a sign of the power of Christ, the Light of the world.

Four royal blue candles represent four weeks of Advent. One of these candles is lit each week as a symbol of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE.

Penitential purple is now reserved for Lent, and royal blue, symbolizing hope, is commonly used in Advent. The white candle is in the centre is the CHRIST CANDLE, and is lit on his birthday.

These five candles lead our way through Advent to Christmas and show us the way Jesus has changed the darkness of hatred and evil into light of joy and love.

Advent 1

The Candle of Hope

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ into our world, we listen to the gospel that tells us to watch.

Today's reading:

Mark: 32-27

Response: **"Thanks be to God."**

Light the first candle.



Prayer

God without beginning and without end, your promise comes to us, bringing hope. Help us to live fully and creatively today, and always to be awake to your presence;
In the name Jesus Christ, the light of the world. **Amen.**

Things to do:

Anticipate the coming of Jesus every day in Advent by doing one special thing each day; for example,

- write a letter to a friend
- bake muffins for a neighbour
- share a good book with someone in your family
- discover more of the story of the Christian community

Advent 2

The Candle of Peace

Mark introduces us to John the baptizer. Each of us is called to become one who prepares the way for our Lord.

Today's reading: Mark 1:1-8

Response: **"Thanks be to God."**

Light two candles.

Prayer

Emmanuel

You come in silence
to my world of crooked, noisy places
places rough with agendas
that leave me bruised...

Let my silence straighten
a way for you
to smooth my rough spots
to heal my bruised spirit



Linda Wells Isenhower

Things to do:

Make tree decorations using symbols of peace.

Look for examples of darkness and light in physical and spiritual ways.

Advent 3

The Candle of Joy

To witness is to speak of our faith in Christ to others. Sometimes this is appropriately done in words, sometimes in action. The gospel tells about John the Baptist who witnessed for Christ.

Today's reading: John 1: 6-9

Response: **"Thanks be to God."**

Light three candles including the rose-coloured candle..

Prayer

Father of all, you gave us your only Son.

He healed us, forgave us,
and showed us the way to you.

May we always know and share with others,
the joy, hope and peace
that come from you alone.



Things to do:

God's Good News brings joy to all people.

Listen all around you and notice the difference Christ's presence makes in our world.

Does your life witness to those around you that you love Jesus?
Call a special friend and tell them what their friendship means to you.

Advent 4

The Candle of Love

Angels come to ordinary places! To ordinary people! God urges us along with news of journeys to be taken, changes to be made, demands to be met, tasks to be carried out, growing to be done.

Today's reading: Luke 1: 26-38

Response: **"Thanks be to God."**

Four blue candles are lit.



Prayer

We thank you, God, that through your son you showed your love to everyone – young and old, weak and strong, rich and poor. Come in this Advent season and give us love in our hearts for all people.

Things to do:

Think about someone special or people in need with each decoration you hang on the tree. Ask Jesus to bless them.

Set up nativity figures at home. Arrange and rearrange them. Start the magi off on their journey from the other side of your home
Visit someone who is lonely or sick.

Christmas

The Christ Candle

Today's reading: Luke 2: 8-20

Response: **"Thanks be to God.**

Light the white Christ candle
and all the other candles .



Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for those who are poor and cold and hungry like the shepherds, that they may hear good news. We pray for those who are searching like the magi, that they may find the place to leave their gifts and their burdens. We pray for those who are busy, hurried, preoccupied like the innkeeper, that they may know peace. We pray for those like Herod who have power, that they may use it with good will. We pray for ourselves – we who each need comfort and peace, even joy, in this starlit season and all the days of our lives. **Amen.**



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