

FAMILY ADVENT WREATH SERVICE

ADVENT

AT HOME



with Mother Liz



service created by St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Baton Rouge LA

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Introduction

Lighting the candles of an Advent wreath is a wonderful tradition to add to your family's preparation for Christmas. It helps children learn the true meaning of Christmas: celebrating the birth of Jesus. Lighting the candles and sharing a prayer together helps prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus at Christmas and in each moment of every day.

Some families may light the candles of the Advent wreath once a week, perhaps on Sunday. Other families may choose to have an Advent wreath service each day before sharing a meal together. However you choose to incorporate this Advent symbol and prayer into the life of your family, we hope the following pages will serve as a helpful guide.

The song suggested for the Advent wreath service is an easy one for children and families to learn and sing together. Dorothy LeBlanc and Joan Weber have prepared some videos that will be added to the St. Margaret's Episcopal Church website at www.saintmargarets.com. Look for a new video each week of Advent. Feel free to incorporate these videos into your prayer and sing along with Dorothy and Joan.

If you would like to hear the original recording of "Come, Lord, Jesus," by Carey Landry, it is available in the *Hi God* collection at www.ocp.org.



Week 1 — *Light*

Light one purple candle

Opening Song

(A video of this song can be found on St. Margaret's Episcopal Church website at www.saintmargarets.com)

Come, Lord Jesus | Words and Music by Carey Landry

Refrain

Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus.
Come and be born in our hearts.

Verse

Come, fill our hearts with light. Come, fill our hearts with light.
Come, fill our hearts with light. Come, fill our hearts with your light.

Come, Lord Jesus by Carey Landry © 1972, OCP. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Bible Reading

- Sunday:* O God of hosts, let the light of your face shine on us. Psalm 80:7
- Monday:* Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12
- Tuesday:* You, God, give light to my lamp. You brighten my darkness. Psalm 18:28
- Wednesday:* The people living in darkness have seen a great light. Matthew 4:16
- Thursday:* Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, so they may see the good that you do and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16
- Friday:* God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5
- Saturday:* The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom should I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,
You told us that you are the Light of the World. Our hearts long to be filled with your light. Help us to see everything and everyone with the light you give us. Come, Lord Jesus!

Amen.



Week 2 — *Hope*

Light two purple candles

Opening Song

(A video of this song can be found on St. Margaret's Episcopal Church website at www.saintmargarets.com)

Come, Lord Jesus | Words and Music by Carey Landry

Refrain

Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus.
Come and be born in our hearts.

Verse

Come, fill our hearts with hope. Come, fill our hearts with hope.
Come, fill our hearts with hope. Come, fill our hearts with your hope.

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Bible Reading

- Sunday:* “Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your God. *Isaiah 40:1*
- Monday:* Set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. *1 Peter 1:13*
- Tuesday:* I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know the hope to which God has called you. *Ephesians 1:18*
- Wednesday:* Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. *Isaiah 40:31*
- Thursday:* “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, “plans to give you a future with hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11*
- Friday:* The eyes of the Lord are on those who hope in his love. *Psalms 33:18*
- Saturday:* I wait for the Lord, and in his word I put my hope. *Psalms 130:5*

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,
The promise of your coming at Christmas fills our hearts with hope. Help us to be kind to others so their hearts may be filled with hope, too. Come, Lord Jesus! **Amen.**



Week 3 — *Joy*

Light two purple candles + one rose candle

Opening Song

(A video of this song can be found on St. Margaret's Episcopal Church website at www.saintmargarets.com)

Come, Lord Jesus | Words and Music by Carey Landry

Refrain

Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus.
Come and be born in our hearts.

Verse

Come, fill our hearts with joy. Come, fill our hearts with joy.
Come, fill our hearts with joy. Come, fill our hearts with your joy.

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Bible Reading

- Sunday:* Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-17
- Monday:* Clap your hands; shout to God with loud songs of joy. *Psalms 47:1*
- Tuesday:* May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.
Romans 15:13
- Wednesday:* Jesus said, "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." *John 15:11*
- Thursday:* The joy of the Lord is your strength. *Nehemiah 8:10*
- Friday:* Jesus said, "I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you." *John 16:22*
- Saturday:* The Lord your God is with you. He will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in his love. *Zephaniah 3:17*

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,
You are our joy. As we light this pink candle, the candle for joy, may we recognize that you are already here with us, deep in our hearts. Come, Lord Jesus! **Amen.**



Week 4 — *Peace*

Light all four candles

Opening Song

(A video of this song can be found on St. Margaret's Episcopal Church website at www.saintmargarets.com)

Come, Lord Jesus | Words and Music by Carey Landry

Refrain

Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus.
Come and be born in our hearts.

Verse

Come, fill our hearts with peace. Come, fill our hearts with peace.
Come, fill our hearts with peace. Come, fill our hearts with your peace.

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Bible Reading

- Sunday:* The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." Luke 1:30
- Monday:* May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in all ways. 2 Thessalonians 3:16
- Tuesday:* Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you." John 14:27
- Wednesday:* Make every effort to live in peace with everyone. Hebrews 12:14
- Thursday:* And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." Luke 2:13-14

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

On the night of your birth angels sang a song of peace for the shepherds and for the whole world. As we wait to celebrate your birthday, help us to be at peace in our hearts and in our family. And help us to share your peace with everyone we meet. Come, Lord Jesus! **Amen.**

