

Weekly Advent Wreath Prayers

from *Advent Arts and Christmas Crafts*, by Jeanne Heiberg



Play Advent music and/or sing favorite advent songs; add readings and prayers from the Sunday lectionary, if you wish, as enrichments. The scriptures below are given as added resources. For young children, and at meal prayers, you may want to simplify, and say only the prayers.

First Week

(Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37)

Loving God, we light this candle as we prepare for the celebration of your Son's birth on earth. Help us to further "wake up" to you during this Advent season. As we welcome Jesus, let love be renewed and strengthened in our hearts, in our minds, and in all our actions. Amen.

(Light one candle.)

Second Week

(Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8)

Lord God of light, you have baptized each of us into your family, in Jesus your Son, whose coming we prepare to celebrate. During this holy season, may we empty our hearts and minds of selfish and small aims, so that you may fill us further with your light. We celebrate your presence in each other, and serve each other as we wait. Amen.

(Light two candles.)

Third Week

(Genesis 3:9-15; 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38)

Lord God of light, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Through prayer and kind service, may we prepare ourselves for the gifts of peace and joy you want to give us. Help us to "make up" with one another by forgiving when we feel hurt or angry, so that we may be happy together in Jesus, through whom we pray. Amen.

(Light three candles.)

Fourth Week

(Isaiah 6:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Lord God of light, you sent your Son, Jesus, to be like a sun that always shines, that no darkness can put out. May the light of Jesus' peace, love, and joy be bright in us, and may we generously share this light with others in kindness and helpful service. Amen.

(Light four candles.)