Advent 2026 Booklet
The Interfaith Families Project (IFFP)



What is Advent?

Advent is the Christian season of waiting and preparation for Christmas (which celebrates the birth of Jesus - God's light and presence entering into the world). Each week of Advent, we will use our wreath and booklet to light candles, pray, contemplate and discuss what it means for hope, peace, joy and love to come to us, even when it seems impossible. Since our IFFP theme this year is "Step by Step," we will consider what precious take aways we want to carry with us, as continue to journey through Advent.

Where do I put my Advent wreath?

Place your wreath somewhere prominent in your home: perhaps at the center of a dining or living room table. Feel welcome to send a picture of you and your wreath to info@iffp.org. We would love to see a snapshot of how you are celebrating this meaningful time of year. During Advent, find a special time to light your wreath each week using this booklet to guide you.

How do I use my booklet?

This booklet includes important stories from the Christian tradition, but it is thoughtfully crafted for all IFFP members (and friends) to utilize and enjoy, no matter their ages or beliefs. You are encouraged to dive into this booklet with family or neighbors, or thoughtfully by yourself. This weekly Advent practice should be a time for soulful contemplation and connection. May it be a blessing to you. *Note: you can complete this booklet without a wreath.*

IFFP Advent Booklet 2026

Hope First Sunday of Advent: Sunday, November 29, 2026

- Light the purple (Hope) candle.

- Read this Bible passage: Luke 1:26-38

- Spend some time with the following prompts:

1) Mary is in an overwhelming situation. Looking closely at the story, what do you find to be most challenging, and what is most inspiring?

2) How does this text speak differently to you this Advent season? Can you relate to any part of it or are there any fresh take-aways?

3) What is something hopeful about this story that you want to hold onto?

- Say this prayer: Giver of Hope, we know there is much suffering and division in the world. In the face of this, we trust that your hope is at hand. Step by step, may we strive to be beacons of your light. Amen.

- Blow out the candle.

Peace Second Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 6, 2026

- Light the purple (Hope) candle, followed by the purple (Peace) candle.

- Continue reading the Bible story: Luke 1:39-45

- Spend some time with the following prompts:

1) Mary visits with her cousin Elizabeth. Looking closely at the story, what do you find to be most challenging, and what is most inspiring?

2) How does this text speak differently to you this Advent season? Can you relate to any part of it or are there any fresh take-aways?

3) What is something peaceful about this story that you want to hold onto?

- Say this prayer: Giver of Peace, help us repair the places of brokenness. Where there is violence and injustice, shower down your peace. Step by step, may we strive to be beacons of your light. Amen.

- Blow out the candles.

Joy Third Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 13, 2026

- Light the purple (Hope) candle, the purple (Peace) candle, and the pink (Joy) candle.

- Continue reading the Bible story: Luke 1:46-56

- Spend some time with the following prompts:

1) Mary sings a song of praise to God. Looking closely at the story, what do you find to be most challenging, and what is most inspiring?

2) How does this text speak differently to you this Advent season? Can you relate to any part of it or are there any fresh take-aways?

3) What is something joyful about this story that you want to hold onto?

- Say this prayer: Giver of Joy, there is much to grieve in our time. Still, we trust in the closeness of your joy. Let us remember gratitude always. Step by step, may we strive to be beacons of your light. Amen.

- Blow out the candles.

Love Fourth Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 20, 2026

- Light the purple (Hope) candle, the purple (Peace) candle, the pink (Joy) candle, and the purple (Love) candle.

- Continue reading the Bible story: Luke 2:1-14

- Spend some time with the following prompts:

1) Mary gives birth to Jesus in a barn. Looking closely at the story, what do you find to be most challenging, and what is most inspiring?

2) How does this text speak differently to you this Advent season? Can you relate to any part of it or are there any fresh take-aways?

3) What is something loving about this story that you want to hold onto?

- Say this prayer: Giver of Love, we see people, animals and plants in need of care. Even still, we trust that your compassion can hold us all. Step by step, may we strive to be beacons of your light. Amen.

- Blow out the candles.

Christ Christmas Eve: Wednesday Evening of December 24, 2026

- Light all of the candles in this order: purple (Hope), purple (Peace), pink (Joy), purple (Love), and white (Christ/Christmas).

- Continue reading the Bible story: Luke 2:15-21

- Spend some time with the following prompts:

1) In the story, Mary treasures and ponders all that has occurred. Looking at the text, where are hope, peace, joy and love coming alive?

2) Think about and/or share a story about a time that illustrates what Christmas – or the message of this holiday season – means to you.

3) As you treasure and ponder Advent and Christmas, what take away do you want to carry with you into this new year?

- Say this prayer: Giver of new life, we see a world in need of transformation. Jesus' birth story reminds us to trust that hope, peace, joy and love often come in the smallest of packages and in the most unexpected of places. Today, we give thanks for Christmas and the incredible message it brings. Guide our beautiful interfaith family in to the new year. With gratitude for your light, we say, Amen.

- Let the candles continue to burn bright as you celebrate the holiday.

Merry Christmas and blessings for a bright year ahead!