

A Liturgy for
Zoom Advent Wreath Lighting



Christ Church Parish – Kent Island

The Advent Wreath

Advent is a time of watching and waiting. Like parents awaiting a birth, we look forward to the Birthday of Jesus. We count the weeks until the good news is proclaimed and the feasting begins.

We are also watching for the Coming of Jesus in our lives. Every week we proclaim in the creed: “we believe he will come again in glory”. In advent, we prepare our homes and our hearts for Jesus to be born in us today!

The Advent Wreath began as a home practice. A circular wreath of greens was placed on a table in a prominent place in the home. Each night at the family meal, prayers were said (along with blessing the meal). One candle was lit for each Sunday until Christmas. A Large Central Candle (the Christ Candle) Could be added on Christmas.

In our Zoom Candle Lighting will include: a gathering, a quote from the Sunday Psalm, the lighting of candles, a response, and a prayer. Anyone can do any part they are ready for. Those of you using the magnetic Advent Wreaths may need to gather by your refrigerator, or wherever you hang your wreath. We also include some questions that you may want to think about as you eat your meal. Since you have a whole week you may ask the questions several times and even find different answers!

This year we will focus on four themes:

- Week One: Hope
- Week Two: Faith
- Week Three: Joy
- Week Four: Love

There is also a service for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. You can continue to use your wreath for the 12 Days of Christmas which stretch until January 6. You may have to change candles to be safe!

Let us Pray

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Advent 1 Hope

Speaker 1: This time of year, darkness comes early. We can lose our Hope in the darkness. Lighting a candle in the darkness can help us find our way. When we cannot see where we have been or where we are going, a single candle, flickering brightly, can help us find our way again.

Speaker 2: The Psalmist sings:

“Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.”

The first candle is lit.

All: Light one candle; see it glow
Bringing Hope, that all may know
How one candle shows the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Speaker 1: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Speaker 2: Loving God, on this first Sunday in Advent, let the Light of Hope shine brightly. As the daylight grows shorter, make us ready for the day when your face will shine upon us at Christmas. In our Savior Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Questions around the Table

What does it mean to have hope?

What do you hope for?

How can we share hope with others?

Advent 2 Faith

Speaker 1: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. By Faith we await the coming of Christ: both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

Speaker 2: The Psalmist sings:

“Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.”

The two candles are lit.

All: Light two candles; see them glow
Kindling faith, that all may know
How two candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Speaker 1: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Speaker 2: Loving God, we are so busy and we are not sure we will be ready for the day of your coming. Give us faith to see what is important: to be who you want us to be, and to do what you would have us do. In our Savior Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Questions around the Table

What does it mean to have Faith?

How can we share Faith in our family and in the world?

Advent 3 Joy

Speaker 1: The great day of new birth is drawing near. As the light of the Advent wreath increases, our hearts and our minds fill with joy. The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

Speaker 2: The Psalmist sings:

“Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.”

The three candles are lit.

All: Light three candles, see them glow
Bringing joy, so all may know
How three candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

Speaker 1: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Speaker 2: Loving God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things.
Help us receive with joy the Good News in this Advent season, that reaping a great harvest, we may share as Jesus taught us. Amen.

Questions around the Table

What does it mean to rejoice?

How is joy the same or different from happiness?

How can we share joy with others?

Advent 4 Love

Speaker 1: Around the world, Christians await the news of God's greatest gift. We wait in love, with Mary and Joseph for the news of the child.

Speaker 2: Mary sings:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

All four Advent candles are lit.

All: Light four candles, see them glow
Lovingly, so all may know
How four candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Speaker 1: God looks with love on Mary, the favored one, and we join in calling her blessed.

Speaker 2: Loving God, in faithfulness you have led us through days of anticipation and celebration. May we reflect the light of your steadfast love and shine brightly to welcome others, in our Savior Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Questions around the Table

When have you felt or seen God's love?

How can we show God's love to the world?

Christmas Eve or Christmas Day

*A Single White Candle is added in the center of the Advent Wreath
The four Advent candles are lit before the service begins.*

Speaker 1: Our days of watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

The Christ candle is lit.

Speaker 2: The Psalmist sings:

“Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

All: O Come, all faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, of come ye to Bethlehem
Come and adore him, born the king of angels.
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Speaker 1: Proclaim the Good News of God's salvation from day to day.

Speaker 2: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Questions around the Table

Christmas Day - The day we have been waiting for is here.

How does it feel to celebrate the birth of Jesus today?

What does the birth of Jesus mean to you?



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