

*The Lighting  
of  
Advent Candles*



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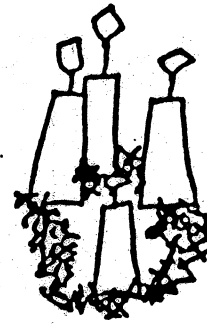
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## The Advent Wreath

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is rich. It is a circle to remind us that God has no beginning and no end. God always has lived and always will live. Evergreens are used on the wreath to remind us that people who love God will live forever with God.

The wreath has four candles, usually blue or purple, but this may vary according to local custom. Deep blue is the royal color; the church uses it to

remind us that we are watching and preparing for our King. The four candles stand for the four weeks in Advent. A fifth candle, or Christ candle, may be added in the center of the circle. One candle is lit on the first Sunday and an additional one is lit on each Sunday of Advent. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve. The candles we use in the Advent wreath are to remind us of the way Jesus changed the darkness of hatred and evil into the light of joy and love.



Here is a set of prayers that may be used to accompany the lighting of Advent candles. Some people perform the ceremony only on each Sunday of Advent, often at the time of the main meal; others do it on each weekday as well, either lighting the Sunday candle each time or using individual candles for each day of the week.

## The Lighting of Advent Candles

*First Week Of Advent* (Light one candle. Each time you light it say:)



"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who live in a land of deep shadow, on them a light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

(Prayer) Almighty God, grant that the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, may so light our whole lives that we need never again walk in darkness. Amen.

*Second Week Of Advent* (Light two candles. Each time you light the second one say:)



"There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came to bear witness to the coming of the light so that all might believe through him." (John 1:6-7)

(Prayer) O God, help us to be ready for the coming of your Son, the light of all who love him, by making room for him in our hearts. Amen.

*Third Week Of Advent* (Light three candles. Each time you light the third one say:)



"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

(Prayer) Lord, we thank you for your great gift of love to us. Help us, through Jesus, to love you more. Amen.

*Fourth Week Of Advent* (Light all four candles. Each time you light the fourth one say:)



"Lord, my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all people — a light to bring light to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:30-32)

(Prayer) Dear God, let the glorious light of Jesus' love shine in our lives and proclaim the Good Tidings to everyone we meet. Amen.

*Christmas Day* (Light all four candles, saying the prayers for each. Then as you light the Christ candle say:)



Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

(Prayer) O God our Father, enlighten our hearts, and the hearts of all your children everywhere, with the inexpressible joy of the presence of your Son as once again we remember his blessed coming. Amen.

(Prayer for all the family) Father, we thank you for this happy day; for the joy of giving and the joy of receiving; for the food on our table and the friendship and love that bind us together. Grant that this light of good will may come to all people who are forgotten or oppressed, in pain or fear or sorrow, and bring them peace. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

