

# Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgy



## About the Advent Wreath

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Please feel free to use the included liturgy and prayers to light your candles each week. Traditionally, the candles are lit on Sundays. You can continue to light the candle(s) each night of the week if you wish!

Liturgy created by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, [rev-o-lution.org](http://rev-o-lution.org) and adapted by SMPC.

## First Sunday of Advent

### The Candle of Hope

**Reader 1:** In a world of war, famine, and disease, where children grow up as orphans, where families go hungry and entire regions face destruction by illness, God, we call upon you to come.

**Reader 2:** In a world where so many have lost hope, we call upon you, Lord of Hope, to come.

**Reader 1:** In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Hope into our world. We await the birth of the Christ-child, the coming of God into our lives in a new way.

**Reader 2:** Come, Messiah, come, and save us!

*Light the first purple candle.*

**Prayer:** Dear God, we pray for the hope that is in Christ to come into our lives in a new way. May we become hope that is alive in our world. Amen.

## **Second Sunday of Advent**

### **The Candle of Peace**

**Reader 1:** In a world of war, violence and abuse, where families live in shelters and children grow up in fear, God, we call upon you to come.

**Reader 2:** In a world where peace seems to be so far away, we call upon you, Prince of Peace, to come.

**Reader 1:** In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Peace into our world. We await the birth of Emmanuel, God with us, who comes into our lives in a new way.

**Reader 2:** Come, Messiah, come, and save us!

*Light the second purple candle*

**Prayer:** Dear God, we pray for the peace that only You can bring through your Son, Jesus the Christ. May we walk in the paths of peace. Amen.

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

### **The Candle of Joy**

**Reader 1:** In a world of despair, where depression rates run high, where there has been so much sadness and loss, God, we call upon you to come.

**Reader 2:** In a world where joy is a distant memory, we call upon you, Great God of Joy, to come.

**Reader 1:** In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Joy into our

world. We await the birth of the Anointed One, the Promised Child, who comes into our lives in a new way.

**Reader 2:** Come, Messiah, come, and save us!

*Light the pink candle*

**Prayer:** Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it. May we celebrate in the joy found in You. Amen.

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### **The Candle of Love**

\*Please note: This year, Christmas Eve is also the fourth Sunday of Advent, so you can use this liturgy in the morning and the Christmas Eve liturgy in the evening.

**Reader 1:** In a world where there are so many messages of hate and indifference, God, we call upon you to come.

**Reader 2:** In a world where we have forgotten that we all belong not just to you, but to one another, we call upon you, El Shaddai, God Almighty, to come.

**Reader 1:** In this season of Advent, we wait for your love to be felt in our lives again. We await the birth of Jesus, the Savior of All, who comes into our lives in a new way.

**Reader 2:** Come, Messiah, come, and save us!

*Light the fourth (purple) candle*

**Prayer:** Dear God, we pray that our faith may be renewed once again, and may we relive the wonder of your love in our lives. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

## The Christ Candle

### Christmas Eve

**Reader 1:** We have watched; we have waited in hope. *Light the first candle.*

for peace. *Light the second candle.*

in joy! *Light the third (pink, if used) candle*

with love. *Light the fourth candle*

Now our redemption draws near! *Light the Christ candle (the center white candle)*

**Reader 2:** On this holy eve (holy day), we remember the gifts of God this season of Advent: the hope, peace, joy, and love that has been made known to us in a new way. We light this last candle, remembering that Christ came into our world and lives in an unexpected way, as one of us, and Christ will come again.

**Prayer:** God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine with your grace. Amen.