

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Prayers for the Blessing of the Advent Wreath on the First Sunday of Advent
and Prayers for the Lighting of the Candle/s on the other Sundays of Advent

*Each week the appropriate prayer for the people should be on the data projector or overhead,
or have printed copies of the Blessing of the Advent Wreath available in the seats.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*The blessing and lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath takes place after the
Greeting at the beginning of the Sunday celebration.*

Leader: The time of Advent calls us to realise how we are always
waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God.
Gathered around this wreath, let us remember God's promise.

Brief silence

Leader: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.

Pause

Lord God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
hope of the peoples,
the Saviour of every nation.

You ask us to be watchful and alert
because we do not know when you will come.
Let this candle bring us light and call us to a new wakefulness.
At those times when you ask us to act, give us strength to respond at once.

Loving God,
let your blessing come upon us gathered around this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

An appointed person now lights the first candle on the wreath.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Loving God,
You call us all to be your people united in faith.
We thank you for this wreath,
the evergreen sign of your faithful love.
We light this candle in hope,
the hope of our coming Saviour, Jesus.
Dispel the darkness of sin,
that the light and joy of Jesus may shine in this waiting world.
Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The liturgy continues.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath takes place after the Greeting at the beginning of the Sunday celebration.

Leader: Our lives are constantly filled with the ups and downs, the mountains and valleys, of everyday living that challenge us to keep focused on the God who comes to save us. We now recognise God's presence amongst us here and light our Advent candle which reminds us of the joy and expectation of the season.

An appointed person now lights the candles on the wreath.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: O God, who sent John the Baptist to proclaim a baptism of repentance, let these two candles prepare the way for the Lord within us.
Forgive our sins and fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Make us ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The liturgy continues.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath takes place after the Greeting at the beginning of the Sunday celebration.

Leader: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness. Isaiah the prophet calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus by making straight all that is crooked. We hear:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

An appointed person now lights three candles on the wreath, the last one being the pink candle.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Loving God,
You sent John the Baptist as a voice crying out in the desert, open our ears to hear his message and shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you.
We light this pink candle in joy,
the joy that we have in Jesus, our Saviour
the one who is anointed by God
to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.
Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The liturgy continues.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath takes place after the Greeting at the beginning of the Sunday celebration.

Leader: The angel Gabriel was sent by God to announce the good news to Mary, thus giving us happiness with your word of life.
Believing in your word, let our hearts be so filled with love for you that they glow with the light of these four candles.

An appointed person now lights the candles on the wreath.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Loving God,
You call us all to be your people united in joy,
to prepare the way of the Lord.
These candles have been lit in peace,
the peace that Jesus, our Saviour, gives to the world.
Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him;
and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him.
Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The liturgy continues.

EVE OF CHRISTMAS OR CHRISTMAS DAY

The lighting of the Christ candle (fifth candle on the Advent wreath) and the candles of the Advent Wreath takes place after the Greeting at the beginning of the Sunday celebration.

Leader: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end.
It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.
The shepherds were the first to hear
the joyful announcement of Christ's birth –
the good news of great joy for all the people.
We have also heard this wonderful news.
and welcome the message with joy.

An appointed person now lights the candles on the wreath.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
We light these candles because Jesus, the light of the world,
was born on this day,
and he brightens all things.
Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Amen.

The liturgy continues.