



The Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light, culminating in the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve as we welcome the child.

We have provided for you here a simple “wreath” that we hope you will use throughout the upcoming Advent season. You can embellish it or leave it simply as it is.

Whether you use this one, one you already had or one that you made with us, we hope that you will weekly welcome the growing light of Christ into your home each week.

In this book, we have provided a weekly prayer for you as you gather to light a candle each week.

Sunday, November 28

First Week of Advent— Welcome the Hope

Isaiah 64:1-9/Mark 13:24-37

God of Salvation, break into our world with your great power and glory. Break the chains that bind us to sin. Shatter the systems of our world that promote injustice and oppression.

We light the 1st Advent Candle as a sign of our hope that God's Messiah is coming. May we stay alert for his coming that we might hear with all of creation the redemption song of our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 5

Second Week of Advent— Welcome the Peace

Isaiah 40:1-11/Mark 1:1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. A voice cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord... make paths straight. Valleys and mountains shall stand side by side. God's glory is about to be revealed to all humankind.

We light the 2nd Advent Candle as a sign of peace in a world broken by violence and injustice. God's Messiah is on his way. Repent... be forgiven of your sins... be washed in the waters of baptism... share in God's transforming grace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 12

Third Week of Advent— Welcome the Joy

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11/John 1:6-8, 19-28

Listen. Hear the good news: God's promised Messiah is coming. He brings good news for the poor and oppressed. He will bind up broken hearts. He will proclaim release to those who are held captive.

We light the 3rd Advent Candle as a sign of joy — a testimony to the Light of God coming into our world that will shatter the darkness and bring healing to all who suffer and mourn.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Week of Advent— Welcome the Love

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16/Luke 1:26-38

Behold! The Lord your God breathes new life into dead spaces. God's Messiah is coming into our world as God's final word — life will triumph over death. Do not be afraid.

We light the 4th Advent Candle as a sign of our hope in God's redeeming love. The Messiah is coming to establish a kingdom in the shape of that very love. And this kingdom will last for ever and ever.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

December 24 or 25

Christmas— Welcome the Child

Isaiah 9:2-7/Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Rejoice! Those who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Rejoice! God's light has shined upon all of creation.

We light the Christ Candle as a sign of good news for all people: God's Messiah has come! Share in the joy of God's new redemption song for our broken world.

Alleluia! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Inspired by Psalm 97

God rules! Let the celebration begin!
Let the islands, the oceans, the land, and the heavens rejoice!
God's glory shines all around;
the heavens proclaim God's righteousness.
Rejoice in God, you holy people;
we give thanks to God's holy name!
Let us worship and praise our Creator.



Inspired by: <http://mastersdust.com/2014/10/27/advent-wreath-liturgies-year-b/>