



Advent Wreath

1st CANDLE – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE** or **CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE** or **THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angles announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the colour violet is a liturgical colour that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepard’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. Celebrating Advent is an excellent way to prepare your mind and heart for Christmas

The Sign of the Cross

Prayer

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. *Who made heaven and earth.*

A song may be sung as the candle is lighted
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Scripture Reading. The approach offered here is to read the gospel, noting key phrases and words that speak to the reader, and then to read it again in a contemplative manner a second time.

Week 1: Jeremiah 33:14-16: A just shoot

Week 2 Baruch 5:1-9 : Mountains are laid low

Week 3 Zephaniah 3: 14-18: Rejoice! God is in your midst

Week 4: Micah 5:1-4 She who is to give birth

Concluding Prayer

Lord our God,
We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,
Let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of 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.
R/. *Amen.*

Concluding Blessing

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us everlasting life.
R/. *Amen.*