

ADVENT - WEEK I

THE ADVENT WREATH

ADVENT CANDLES:



Four little candles sit in a ring
Three of the purple, one of them pink
Each of them has it's own special meaning
The glow of their light has a message to bring

The first is **hope** for the road ahead,
The second of **faith** about what has been said
The third tells of **joy** about what is to come
The fourth speaks **peace** for everyone.

Four little candles sit in a ring
Rejoice in the Christmas message they bring.

The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the Sign of the Cross.

The leader begins: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All respond: Who made heaven and earth.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

Scripture is read: Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: 9:1-2

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom, a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. The word of the Lord. All respond: **Thanks be to God.**

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession and in the Lord's Prayer: Our Father.

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

After a short silence, the leader prays: 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 Saviour 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.**

ADVENT WAITING REQUIRES MAKING SPACE.

Although the main action in Advent is God's, I have my part to do too. I am not waiting passively for God to act. Rather, I have to make room for God's action to be something that I can welcome, something that I can pay attention to when it happens. Here the images of the inn and stable are helpful. There was no room at the inn for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, because it was too full. The stable was poor and simple but had space for them to take shelter. Is my heart open to God? **What are the superficial concerns or worries to let go, in order to make room for Jesus to come again this Christmas?** Is my life too rushed and busy with holiday preparations, or am I building in time to make space for the Christ Child?

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/three-characteristics-of-advent-waiting/>