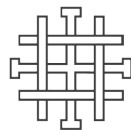


An Advent Wreath Liturgy



ALL SAINTS
—HOLLAND—
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Adapted from:
Little Way Chapel <https://www.littlewaychapel.com/blog/advent-wreath-prayers>
Immanuel Anglican Church
<https://immanuelanglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Liturgy-for-Home-Advent-Services-2018.pdf>
Homely Hours <https://thehomelyhours.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/advent-wreath-o-antiphons.pdf>

What is Advent?

Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* meaning “**the coming,**” but the coming of what, or who?

Advent is a preparation for the coming of Christ in three ways:

The remembrance of the Birth of Christ

The daily coming of Christ and His Kingdom in the world

The anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ

The tenor of Advent is generally more subdued, penitential, and a season of some measure of abstinence from rich and 'pleasurable' foods, except Sundays because the Lord's Day is always a celebration and considered inappropriate for fasting.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard their cries. It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which evokes the anticipation of a King who will forever rule with peace, justice, and righteousness over His people and over His whole creation!

Using an Advent Wreath

An Advent wreath is a ring of evergreen holding four candles around the circumference and one candle in the middle. The circle symbolizes God's everlasting love for His creation, and the evergreens represent Christ's gift of eternal life. The light of each candle represents the light that Christ brings to the World. The four outer candles represent the “light before the dawn,” the period of waiting during Advent. On Christmas day, a white candle is lit in the center of the wreath to announce the birth of Christ who is the Light of the World. As you gather for prayer, begin by lighting one candle the first week, two candles the second week, three the third week and so on.

Advent is a season of preparation, and each week has a sub-theme to help us prepare:

Week 1: 1st candle: **HOPE**

Week 2: 2nd candle: **LOVE**

Week 3: 3rd candle: **JOY**

Week 4: 4th candle: **PEACE**

Christmas Eve/Day: **CHRIST**

Follow this guide as best suits your household. Mealtime is a natural opportunity. One option would be to use the readings and light the candle(s) on the Sunday of each week. Another option would be to light the candle(s) every day of Advent, using the guide on Sunday and each following day recalling the themes of the candles. Feel free to add hymns, shorten the liturgy or lengthen it by adding daily lectionary readings from the BCP. A QR code on each page will lead you to the daily readings. Additional prayers from the BCP are also offered for each sub-theme. Note that the opening scripture is repeated each week of Advent - consider using this as an opportunity to memorize the verse as you recite it each time you light the candle.

First Week of Advent: Hope

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All: If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. (Psalm 139:11-12)

Prayer: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read: This is the first week of Advent. Advent means "coming," and in this season we prepare for the coming of the presence of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we prepare our hearts for his coming is by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles. This reminds us of some of the gifts Jesus brings to the world—hope, peace, joy, love and salvation. The Advent wreath itself is in the shape of a circle. A circle has no beginning and no end. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no end to God and that God's love and caring are forever. The light from the candles, which grows stronger each week in Advent, reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Today we light the candle of **Hope**. A hope is different from a wish. Wishes may or may not “come true,” but real hope in Christ is sure and certain. Whatever God promises, He will do. The people of Israel hoped in God's promises and were not disappointed. Again and again God delivered Israel from its enemies.

We too have the same experience of salvation. Even when things do not go as we would like, we can remember that His ways are not our ways, and His timing is not like ours, but it is perfect and we can hope in Him. God promises to send Jesus to us once again as perfect judge of the world and to make everything right when he establishes his kingdom forever upon the earth.

(The candle of Hope is lit.)

All: Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Hymn, Lectionary Scriptures, and Prayers may be offered here.

Collects for Hope:
#59 p.663, #80 p.670, #115 p.679



Daily Lectionary Readings

Conversation or Journaling Prompts: What do you hope for? What helps you hold onto hope in times of trial? What are some of the promises God has made to us? Is there someone in your life to whom you can offer hope? What might that look like?

Prayer: God of hope, we light this candle as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Awaken our hearts to you this Advent season, so that when Christ arrives, we are ready to receive him with all our hearts, all our minds, and all our strength. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Week of Advent: Peace

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All: If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. (Psalm 139:11-12)

Prayer: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read: Last week we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of Hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will surely come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us. (The candle of Hope is lit.)

The second candle of Advent is the candle of **Peace**. Peace is one of the things that we hope for. Christ brought peace when he first came to us and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. The prophet Isaiah called Christ “the Prince of Peace.” When Jesus came, he taught people the importance of being peace makers, even when it is costly. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God.

We light the candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him and his cross, peace is found. Peace is more than the absence of fighting and conflict; peace is a deep sense of well-being that rests in a restored, right relationship with Him that stretches out to include others, and creation as well.

(The candle of Peace is lit.)

All: Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

Hymn, Lectionary Scriptures, and Prayers may be offered here.

Collects for Peace:
#3 p.646, #27 & 28 p.654,
#82 p.670, #87 p.672



Daily Lectionary Readings

Conversation or Journaling Prompts: What is the difference between the peace of God and the peace of the world? How does one's view of God affect one's peace? Where do you long to see God's peace on this earth? How can you be an instrument of peace?

Prayer: Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen..

People: Thanks be to God.

Third Week of Advent: Joy

The **third candle** is traditionally Pink or Rose, and symbolizes **Joy** at the soon Advent of the Christ.

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All: If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. (Psalm 139:11-12)

Prayer: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read: We light the candle of Peace and the candle of Hope again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to judge the world and bring it everlasting peace. (The candles of Hope and Peace are lit.)

The third candle of Advent is the Candle of **Joy**. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior.” Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him.

We light the candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us and our life is found in Him, we have joy. We celebrate that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. The joy of the Lord is even deeper and stronger than happiness and is with us even in difficult times. Jesus even faced his suffering and death with joy.

(The candle of Joy is lit.)

All: Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

Hymn, Lectionary Scriptures, and Prayers may be offered here.

Collects for Joy: #21 p.652, #110 on p.678, any of the thanksgivings beginning on p.680.



Daily Lectionary Readings

Conversation or Journaling Prompts: How is joy different from happiness? What brings you joy? How have you experienced the joy of the Lord being your strength? (Nehemiah 8:10) Under what current circumstances do you want joy to be evident in you?

Prayer: God of joy, it is in your love that we find lasting joy. Keep us from seeking happiness in things that will not last, for we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out of it. Teach us instead to find joy in the gift of your Son, who came into this world with nothing, yet gave us everything. May his joy rise up in our hearts and overflow to all we meet this Advent season. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God.

Fourth Week of Advent: Love

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All: If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. (Psalm 139:11-12)

Prayer: Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Read: Last week we lit the candle of Joy. We light it and the candles of Hope and Peace again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy. (The candles of hope, peace, and joy are lit.)

The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of **Love**. God's love is a perfect love. It holds nothing back. God is love and generously gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace and joy. The Bible says that “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” Jesus shows us God's perfect love. This is what love is like: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance. Love never ends.

We light the candle of Love to remind us that Jesus brings us God's love and births that love in us, so that we may love others.

(The candle of Love is lit.)

All: Love is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.

Hymn, Lectionary Scriptures, and Prayers may be offered here.

Collects for Love: #52 p.662,
#65 & 66 p.666, #72 p.668



Daily Lectionary Readings

Conversation or Journaling Prompts: What experience have you had of God's love for you? How do you show your love for God? What experience of God's love would you like to have? Share with him this longing. Who do you need help loving? Ask God for what you need.

Prayer: O God, the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: Help us so to know you that we may truly love you, and so to love you that we may fully serve you, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God.

Christmas Eve or Day: Christ

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And with your spirit.

Leader: Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, the son of God is born this night.

People: God's word has been made flesh among us.

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined.

Leader: You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

People: His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

(All four Advent candles, and the Christ candle are lit.)

**All: We honor Messiah with Christ candle's flame
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O Come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

Hymn, Lectionary Scriptures, and Prayers may be offered here.



Daily Lectionary Readings

Conversation or journaling prompts: How have you experienced God this Advent Season? Where do you see him “arriving” in your life right now?

Prayer for Christmas Eve: O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Prayer for Christmas Day: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

People: Thanks be to God.