

Make & Pray for Advent 2024

'O come, O come Emmanuel'

The Advent wreath is cherished tradition observed in the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas. The term 'Advent' is derived from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival." Therefore, the Advent wreath represents the anticipation of the arrival of Jesus, not only as a historical event but also as a spiritual journey.

How to make an advent wreath at home:

1. Get 5 candles, 3 purple, 1 pink, 1 white. The white candle should be slightly larger for the middle. Packs of advent candles can be purchased at ww.duffyscottchurch.com or in any discount shop.
2. Find a holder for the candles. Drill holes in a round block of wood, buy an advent wreath frame, use small holders available inexpensively anywhere, or use an oasis.
3. Get some real or artificial greenery, ivy, evergreen branches, holly, fading beech or a mix of the above and place in a circle.
4. Place the 4 coloured candles in the circle with the white candle in the centre.
5. Further decorate with pine cones, bows, poinsettia flowers, purple bows.
6. Add the Advent wreath to your sacred space or in a prominent place in your home.
7. Pray daily or weekly at your Advent wreath.
8. Get creative and make it your own.



Image from pixabay

'Hope, Peace Joy, Love'

What Each Candle Represents

The four coloured candles represent the four Sundays of Advent, and they symbolize hope, peace, joy and love. The fifth candle is white and is lit on Christmas Day to represent the birth of Jesus. The circular shape symbolises eternity and the everlasting love of God.

Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple)

Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple)

Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd's Candle (pink)

Advent week 4 – Love: Angel's Candle (purple)

Christmas Day —Birth of Jesus (white)

'Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem.
May we let ourselves be drawn by the
light of God made man' *Pope Francis*

Advent Wreath Blessing

"Lord God, as we light this first candle of Advent, may its flame symbolize the hope that you bring into our lives. With hearts filled with anticipation, we prepare to welcome your Son, Jesus Christ, into our hearts and homes.

Bless this wreath and our time of reflection during this sacred season. **Amen.**"

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus,

That we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wisemen.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be children of God and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven for Jesus' sake. **AMEN**



Source: Prayers from Crosswalk.com

Make & Pray for Advent—A family prayer

Week 1 – HOPE: Light the first purple candle

Child: God, we ask you to bless our family Advent Wreath. It has evergreen leaves, reminding us that you will always be with us...and it is shaped like a circle, with no beginning or end, just like your love for us is always there for us, surrounding us every day.

Adult: Jesus, we look forward to celebrating your birth at Christmas. Open our hearts to love all the people we meet each day.

All the family: Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts and in our home.

On Christmas Day – Light the white candle

Child: Jesus, today we light a white candle, to celebrate your birthday...thank you for coming into our lives, and thank you for all the presents we received to celebrate your birthday.

Adult: Jesus, you are our friend and brother...help us to be friend to everyone we meet.

All the family: Stay with us Lord Jesus in our hearts and in our home.

Week 2 - PEACE: Light the second purple candle

Child: Jesus, our brother, we ask you to bless our family during this Advent time. We light these candles to remind us that you bring light into our lives and into the world. We thank you for showing us how to show love and be kind and help those who need help.

Adult: God, your story of love for people all through time reminds us that you are with us, offering us light and hope. Help us to trust in you this week.

All the family: Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts and into our home.



Week 4 - LOVE: Light the third purple candle

Child: Jesus our friend and brother, we ask you to bless all the people who are waiting to celebrate your birthday....help us to spend these days of waiting by showing love and kindness to everyone.

Adult: God, your love for us meant that you would give us your own Son. Help us to realise that you love us so much. We look forward to showing your love by being with you on Christmas Day.

All the family: Come Lord Jesus into our hearts and into our home.

Week 3 - JOY: Light the pink candle

Child: God, we light the pink candle today. This reminds us that you want joy for us...you want us to trust you and believe that you are there for us, even when things are hard.

Adult: Jesus, our friend, we thank you for the joy you give us as a family...for all the love and fun we enjoy together. Help us to share our joy with others.,

All the family: Come Lord Jesus into our hearts and into our home.