

During Advent, we do not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family.

Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scriptures and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be most prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.

God of Love

Your Son Jesus is your greatest gift to us

He is a sign of your love

Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent.

As we wait and prepare for His coming

We pray in the name of Jesus our Savior.

Amen

ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY

For Use during Eucharist Service on Sunday



Resources are derived from:

The Book of Common Prayers

The Book of Occasional Services

A Priest's Handbook: The Ceremonies of the Church

THE ADVENT CANDLE



The Advent Wreath is a visual symbol marking the progress of the season of Advent, originating as a domestic devotion and an opportunity for family prayer. It functions as a simple countdown-timer for the passage of Advent.

It is important to place the wreath in such a way so that it maintains the centrality of the essential symbols for the assembly: Font, Word, and Table.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath (ETWN)

A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

Priest: Lord God,
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,
who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of
ignorance and sin.
Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the
candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendour of Christ, who is
Lord, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE : THE CHRIST CANDLE

Before the service starts, the altar candles and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Candles of are lit. At the end of the procession by the wreath the Priest or Deacon reads:

And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:7-12) NIV

This prayer is said as the Christ candle is lit

God our Father, today the Savior is born
and those who live in darkness are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ ,
the light who has come into the world.

Amen.

HYMN—Sung or recited during the Lighting of the Christ Candle

For unto us a child is born
Unto us a child is given
and the government shall be upon his shoulders
and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God
The Everlasting Father
And the Prince of Peace is He

**May the light of your life be kindled in us,
And lead us to the shining truth,
of God with us, God for us, God in us.
Amen.**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT : THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Before the service starts, the altar candles and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Candles of Advent are lit. At the end of the procession by the wreath the Priest or Deacon reads:

The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

(Luke 3:2b-6)

Advent antiphon

Priest: Our King and Savior now draws near

All: *O Come let us adore him*

Priest: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy.
Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love.

Prayer said while lighting the 4th candle of Advent

Lord grant us your light,
that being rid of the darkness of our hearts,
we may come to the true light which is Christ.

Amen

HYMN—*Sung or recited during the Lighting of the Candles*

The 4th and final stanza of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" is sung or recited today on the 4th Sunday of Advent to the Tune—Alleluia Sing to Jesus

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By thy all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne

ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—CANDLE OF HOPE

If the Advent wreath candles are lit at the beginning of a Sunday service, the ceremony should be brief. The Advent antiphon (BCP, page 43 or 80) may be said in unison or responsively (BOS—Book of Occasional Services)

Priest: Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

(Matthew 24:42-44)

Advent antiphon

Priest: Our King and Savior draws near

All: *O come let us adore him*

(First candle is lit.)

Prayer said while lighting the 1st Candle of Advent

Lord grant us your light,
that being rid of the darkness of our hearts,
we may come to the true light which is Christ

Amen

HYMN—*Sung or recited during the Lighting of the Candles*

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus is sung or recited.
Each stanza for each Sunday of Advent to the Tune—Alleluia Sing to Jesus
(Tune: Hyfrydol—4vv)*

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find out rest in thee

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: CANDLE OF PEACE

Before the service starts, the altar candles and the 1st Candle of Advent are lit.

At the end of the procession by the wreath the Priest or Deacon reads:

The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

(Luke 3:2b-6)

Advent antiphon

Priest: Our King and Savior now draws near

All: ***O Come let us adore him***

Priest: Last week we lit the first candle of Hope. Today we light the 2nd candle of Peace

Prayer said while lighting the 2nd candle of Advent

Lord grant us your light,
that being rid of the darkness of our hearts,
we may come to the true light which is Christ.

Amen

HYMN—Sung or recited during the Lighting of the Candles

The 2nd stanza of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" is sung or recited today on the 2nd Sunday of Advent to the Tune—Alleluia Sing to Jesus

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope to all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT : Candle of Joy

Before the service starts, the altar candles and the 1st Candle of Advent are lit

At the end of the procession by the wreath the Priest or Deacon reads:

The word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

(Luke 3:2b-6)

Advent antiphon

Priest: Our King and Savior now draws near

All: ***O Come let us adore him***

Priest: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy.

Prayer said while lighting the 3rd candle of Advent

Lord grant us your light,
that being rid of the darkness of our hearts,
we may come to the true light which is Christ.

Amen

HYMN—Sung or recited during the Lighting of the Candles

The 3rd stanza of "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" is sung or recited today on the 3rd Sunday of Advent to the Tune—Alleluia Sing to Jesus

Born thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever
Now thy gracious kingdom bring