

Advent Wreath Prayers

Week One

Reader 1 | The first week of Advent we remember the gift of hope we have in Christ. The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David who would rule the world wisely and bless all nations.

Reader 2 | As followers of Christ, we wait with hope for his return. As we light this candle, we remember that it was from the manger of Bethlehem that he came and gave light to the world. As we light this candle we are reminded to be alert and to watch for the light of Christ even in the most unlikely places and people.

Now the reader lights the first purple candle on the Advent Wreath.

Family members share one way they have experienced hope today.

Reader 3 | Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for the hope you give us. Prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming. Open our eyes to see the light of Christ in others. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus the Lord.

All | Amen

Week Two

Reader 1 | The second week of Advent we remember the gift of peace we have in Christ. Peace is a gift that we must tirelessly work for. God gives us the gift of peace when we join each other in trust and friendship.

Reader 2 | Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asked us to prepare the way of the Lord, the one Isaiah called 'the Prince of Peace.' As we light this candle today we look with hope for the day that Christ's peace will reign in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. As we light this candle, we are reminded to work for that peace of Christ to come and take root in us.

Now the reader lights the first two purple candles on the Advent Wreath.

Family members share how they have experienced peace today.

Reader 3 | Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for gift of peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord's coming by allowing Christ's peace to take root in our family and in all our acquaintances and friendships. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus the Lord.

All | Amen

Week Three

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Reader 1 | The third week of Advent we remember the gift of joy we have in Christ. We remember the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver all people. Joy is the gift we receive through Christ’s unconditional love for us.

Reader 2 | God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born, told them: “Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people – for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord.” As we light this candle, we remember that Christ came to save all people and bring them true and everlasting joy.

Now the reader lights the first two purple candles and the rose-colored one on the Advent Wreath.

Family members share one way they have experienced joy today.

Reader 3 | Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming by helping us see that Christ came for every person we meet wherever we go. We ask this is the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus the Lord.

All | Amen

Week Four

Reader 1 | The fourth week of Advent we remember the gift of love we have in Christ. The light of the candles is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us. Jesus shows us God’s perfect love. He is God’s love in human form. 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.

Reader 2 | 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. As we light this candle, we remember that we are called to love as Christ loves us. As we light this candle, we are reminded that we are called to show that love in the way we treat others.

Now the reader lights all the candles on the Advent Wreath.

Family members share one way they have experienced love today.

Reader 3 | Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for your gift of love – shown to us perfectly in Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming by loving others as Christ loves us. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

All | Amen