

Advent Wreath Prayers – Candle Liturgy

LEADER – The Advent Wreath is an evergreen wreath with 4 candles - 3 purple and 1 pink, and a white Christ candle placed in the centre. Purple is the color for Advent, the 4 weeks before Christmas which are a time of waiting for Christ's coming. Pink is the color for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, which is more joyful and is called "Rejoice" Sunday. White is the color for Christmas.

The candles represent the light of Christ coming into the world. The evergreen branches represent the renewal that Christ will bring. The circular shape of the wreath represents that all things are complete in God. We light the candles to remember the coming of Christ. Christ came into the world when he was born in Bethlehem, and he is still coming, is always coming into troubled places in the world.

LEADER - And so we light the 1st candle, the candle of hope.

(Light the 1st candle)*

VOICE 1 – Loving God, you are the God of hope. We bring to you places we know of where hope is needed: places in Africa, in Winnipeg, in schools and hospitals and work places. We pray that you, O God, may bring hope to all.

ALL – We will go forth from this place in hope.

LEADER – Now we light the 2nd candle, the candle of peace.

(Light the 2nd candle)*

VOICE 2 – Loving God, you are the God of peace. We bring to you places we know of where peace is needed: countries where there are wars, streets where there is violence, schools where there is bullying, places where there is racism and fighting and quarrelling. We pray that you, O God, may bring peace to all.

ALL – We will go forth in hope and in peace.

LEADER – Now we will light the 3rd candle, the candle of joy.

(Light the 3rd candle)*

VOICE 3 – Loving God, you are the God of joy. We thank you for the gift of joy that is all around us – in the children, the Christmas lights, the music, the gathering of people in villages and cities, in churches and mosques. Thank you for planting joy in our hearts. We pray that you, O God, will help us to share our joy with others.

ALL – We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.

LEADER – Now we light the 4th candle, the candle of love.

(Light the 4th candle)*

VOICE 4 – Loving God, this candle is a sign that you are, above all, a God of love. We thank you for the gift of love that is shown to us in a special way in the Christmas story. Thank you for planting love in our hearts. Help us to be a blessing to others. We pray that your love, O God, may bring renewal to all people.

ALL – We will go forth in hope, peace, joy and love.

LEADER – Now we light the Christ candle.

(Light the Christ candle)*

VOICE 5 – The light of Christ has come into the world. The light of Christ is still coming, and is always coming into the dark corners of this world. Christ is the fulfillment of the promises of hope, peace, joy and love. We pray that we may walk in the light of Christ.

ALL – We will go forth in hope, peace, joy and love.