

Using Your Advent Wreath in Home Devotions

You can use different readings, you can modify the prayers, and you can add hymns, carols, or other prayers as you like. What follows is just one sample. Assign family members to each part so all have a turn!

First Sunday of Advent

1. Light one blue candle
2. Read Isaiah 60:2-3

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

3. Sing a hymn, Advent carol, or add other prayers and intercessions
4. Close with prayer

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. We who have sat in darkness have seen a great light, the light of Jesus Christ, our salvation. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. Snuff out the candle

ASSIGNMENTS

1. _____
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5. _____

Second Sunday of Advent

1. Light the candle used last week, and a second blue candle
2. Read Mark 1:4

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

3. Sing a hymn, Advent carol, or add other prayers and intercessions
4. Close with prayer

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the way. We, who like sheep have gone astray, have found the way to you through Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. Snuff out all the candles

ASSIGNMENTS

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Third Sunday of Advent

1. Light the candles used, in the order you used them before, then a third blue candle (or the pink one, if you have a pink candle)
2. Read Isaiah 35:10

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

3. Sing a hymn, Advent carol, or add other prayers and intercessions
4. Close with prayer

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who brings us great joy. We who have walked in the shadow of the valley of death have found life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. Snuff out all the candles

ASSIGNMENTS

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About Home Advent Wreaths

- Advent wreaths began as a home devotional ritual. They weren't widely used in churches until the middle of the twentieth century.
- Four candles are along the wreath's circle. Sometimes, purple candles are used because, in antiquity, purple dye was very expensive so usually reserved for royalty, and Advent is the season of preparation for the King's coming. We use blue candles, to represent hope, anticipation, and heaven. It is also the color usually associated with Mary, Jesus' mother.
- The candle for the third Sunday of Advent is often pink, or really, "rose." A little over halfway through the season, when the waiting has gotten really hard, we get another glimpse of the celebration to come, when we hear words like "Joy!" or "Rejoice!" in our prayers and songs, and the rose candle notes this difference.
- If you use a fifth candle, it goes in the center of the wreath and it should be white. It is for Christmas Day.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1. Light all the candles on the wreath, first those used in past weeks, then the last blue candle
2. Read Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

3. Sing a hymn or Advent carol, or add other prayers and intercessions
4. Close with prayer

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who is the Prince of Peace. We who live in discord and strife have found peace in the promise of eternal life, through Jesus Christ. We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name, because he lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

5. Snuff out all the candles

ASSIGNMENTS

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On Christmas Day

1. Light all the candles on the wreath, first those used in past weeks, then the white candle in the center of the wreath
2. Read Luke 2: 1-20

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

3. Sing a hymn or Christmas carol, or add other prayers and intercessions
4. Close with prayer

We praise you, Lord God, because on this day, your Word became flesh in our Savior Jesus Christ, was born of a woman, and walked among us as a man. Help us to imitate your incarnation, by manifesting our faith in our conduct as well as in our speech. To you, O Lord, we give our honor, praise, worship, and love, in the most holy and precious name of the One who is born today; because He lives and reigns with you in your glory, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. Snuff out all the candles

Starters for Home Advent Wreath Services



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