
The
Story of
Advent
Candles

What is Advent?

- Advent comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming" or "arrival."
- It is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of spiritual preparation and expectant waiting for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.
- It lasts for the four Sundays and weeks leading up to Christmas Day.
- It’s not just about looking back, but also about looking forward to the promise of Christ's return.

The Advent Wreath

THE WREATH ITSELF:

A circle made of evergreen branches.

<u>Symbolism:</u>

The circle has no beginning and no end, symbolizing God's eternal love and everlasting life.



THE EVERGREENS:

Often pine, fir, or holly.

<u>Symbolism:</u>

Represent continuous life and hope even in the midst of winter's darkness.

The Four Candles

- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent.
- One candle is lit on the first Sunday, two on the second, and so on.
- As the weeks pass, the light grows brighter, symbolizing the increasing anticipation and the approaching "Light of the World."
- Each candle has a specific theme that guides the weekly reflection.



The First Candle

THEME: Hope (Prophet's Candle)
COLOR: Purple (or sometimes Blue)
NAME: The Prophet's Candle

- This candle symbolizes hope and expectation.
- It recalls the prophecies in the Old Testament that foretold the coming of a Messiah.
- It reminds us to have hope in God's promises.



The Second Candle



THEME: Peace (Bethlehem Candle)
COLOR: Purple
NAME: The Bethlehem Candle

- This candle represents peace.
- It symbolizes the peace that Christ's birth brings to the world and to our hearts.
- It points to Bethlehem, the "City of David," where the Prince of Peace was born.

The Third Candle

THEME: Joy (Shepherd's Candle)
COLOR: Pink (or Rose)
NAME: The Shepherd's Candle

- This candle signifies joy.
- The pink color represents a shift—a joyful celebration that Christmas is very near.
- It recalls the joy of the shepherds when they heard the good news of Jesus' birth.



The Fourth Candle



THEME: Love (Angel's Candle)
COLOR: Purple
NAME: The Angel's Candle

- This candle embodies love.
- It represents God's perfect, unconditional love, demonstrated by sending His Son into the world.
- It is associated with the angels, the messengers of God's love.

The Christ Candle

PLACEMENT:
A white candle in the center of the wreath.

WHEN LIT:
On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

SYMBOLISM:
This candle represents Jesus Christ himself.



- The color white signifies His purity, holiness, and victory over sin and death.
- Lighting this candle signifies that the waiting is over; the Messiah, the Light of the World, has arrived.