

The Advent Wreath

An Advent wreath is a ring of evergreen holding four candles. The circle symbolizes God's *everlasting love* for His creation, and the evergreens represent Christ's gift of *eternal life*. The light of each candle represents the light that Christ brings to the World. On Christmas day, a white candle is lit in the center of the wreath to announce the birth of Christ who is the Light of the World.

As you (and your family) gather daily for scripture and prayer, begin by lighting one candle the first week, two candles the second week, three the third week and so on. Advent is a season of preparation, and each week has a subtheme to help us prepare:

Week 1:	1 st candle: HOPE
Week 2:	2 nd candle: LOVE
Week 3:	3 rd candle: JOY
Week 4:	4 th candle: PEACE
Christmas Eve:	Christ-Candle: SALVATION



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Christmas Eve

Pageant @4PM

Worship @5PM

6116 Southwest Blvd Fort Worth, TX 76109



Advent: Preparing for the Coming of Jesus

Devotional

What is Advent?

Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* meaning “the coming”, but the coming of what? It is a preparation for the coming of Christ in three ways:

1. The remembrance of the Birth of Christ
2. The anticipation of the 2nd Coming of Christ
3. The coming of ourselves to Christ

When is Advent?

Advent is the New Year celebration for the Church seasons (happy new year!!). It begins 4 Sundays before the feast of The Christ Mass, or Christmas (always December 25th).

The origin of the Advent Season dates from the 6th century AD. The Church used collects and lessons during this season to prepare the Church atmosphere and teaching of Christmas.

What do we do in Advent season?

Advent is a season of preparation. Just as we prepare for the Easter Resurrection during Lent, so we also prepare for the coming birth of Christ during Advent. Advent colors are typically violet, but dark blue is also appropriate – connoting a humble preparation for the coming of Christ. As Jesus humbled himself to be born of a woman to become man, so we are to humble ourselves in preparation for Our Lord and Savior’s arrival.



How to Keep Advent Season at Home

- Advent Wreaths – Build a wreath of any size with five candles that can be lit as Scripture is read and prayers are said daily in anticipation of the coming Christmas.
- Advent Calendars – These come in many forms and assist children in counting down the days to Christmas.
- Reading Scripture – The scripture verses in this Devotional are based on the book by Megan Dunsmore, *The Jesse Tree: An Advent Tradition*. From Old Testament to New, these readings point the way to the Messiah.
- Prayers – If you don’t have a regular prayer-time in your daily routine, now is a great time to start! Your prayers don’t have to be complex, and neither do they have to be long or limited to the dinner table, but your prayers should include a prayer for the return of our Lord into your life. You may pray when you wake up, at bedtime, or before you open the next number on the Advent calendar.
- Nativity Scene – Set up a *crèche* scene in the home, taking into consideration that Christ should not be placed in the manger until Christmas day. Allow for the whole family to anticipate the birth of Christ by setting up the manger one week, then Joseph the next, then Mary the next week or something like this pattern. **Then make Jesus the first present to be opened on Christmas day and placed in the manger.**



4th Week of Advent

*A family member lights all **four colored candles** of the Advent wreath. Then someone leads the family in the following:*

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand! Come, Lord Jesus. AMEN.

Someone leads the following New Testament scripture verses pointing the way to the Messiah:

Sunday	Luke 1:5-25
Monday	John 1:19-28
Tuesday	Matthew 1:18-2:23
Wednesday	Luke 1:26-2:52

Christmas Eve

Light the center Christ candle in addition to the other 4 candles, and read: Luke 2:15-20

All: Our Father...

Continue with other prayers, thanksgivings, and intercessions

Leader: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us and keep us. AMEN.

****Prayer transforms us****

This day/week what are things we are doing, saying, thinking that prepare us for the coming birth of Jesus Christ?

1st Week of Advent

*A family member lights the **first candle** of the Advent wreath. Then someone leads the family in the following*

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand! Come, Lord Jesus. AMEN.

Someone leads the following Old Testament scripture verses pointing the way to the Messiah:

Sunday	Genesis 1:1-2:4	Thursday	Genesis 22:1-19
Monday	Genesis 3:1-24	Friday	Genesis 28:10-22
Tuesday	Genesis 6:9-9:17	Saturday	Genesis 37:1-45:28
Wednesday	Genesis 15:1-21		

All: Our Father...

Continue with other prayers, thanksgivings, and intercessions

Leader: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us and keep us. AMEN.

****Prayer transforms us****

This day/week what are things we are doing, saying, thinking that prepare us for the coming birth of Jesus Christ?

2nd Week of Advent

*A family member lights the **first two candles** of the Advent wreath. Then someone leads the family in the following:*

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand! Come, Lord Jesus. AMEN.

Someone leads the following Old Testament scriptures readings pointing the way to the Messiah:

Sunday	Exodus 2:1-10	Thursday	Isaiah 11:1, 10
Monday	Exodus 20:1-17	Friday	1 Samuel 3:1-17
Tuesday	Joshua 6:1-27	Saturday	1 Samuel 16:14-23
Wednesday	Ruth 1:1-4:22		

All: Our Father...

Continue with other prayers, thanksgivings, and intercessions

Leader: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us and keep us. AMEN.

****Prayer transforms us****

This day/week what are things we are doing, saying, thinking that prepare us for the coming birth of Jesus Christ?

3rd Week of Advent

*A family member lights the **first, second and third candles** of the Advent wreath. The third candle is pink. Then someone leads the family in the following:*

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand! Come, Lord Jesus. AMEN.

Someone leads the following Old Testament scripture readings pointing the way to the Messiah:

Sunday	1 Kings 3:4-15, 6:1-14	Thursday	Jeremiah 18:1-12
Monday	1 Kings 18:1-39	Friday	Daniel 6:1-28
Tuesday	Nehemiah 1:1-7:73	Saturday	Jonah 1:1-4:11
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:1-11		

All: Our Father...

Continue with other prayers, thanksgivings, and intercessions

Leader: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless us and keep us. AMEN.

****Prayer transforms us****

This day/week what are things we are doing, saying, thinking that prepare us for the coming birth of Jesus Christ?