

Advent 2025

Early Elementary



What Is Advent

Advent Season is a very special time of year but sometimes it gets lost in the bright lights and business of the Christmas season. Advent is the four-weeks before Christmas. It's a time of preparation and anticipation of the birth of Jesus!

The Advent Season is all about preparing our hearts for Christ's birth. It is a time for churches and families to reflect on the true meaning of Jesus' birth. This time gives us the opportunity to step away from the frenzied pace of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in our Christian faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.

Advent Wreath

The most significant tradition of the Advent season is the Advent Wreath. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. So, what does the Advent Wreath symbolize? The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Advent Candles

The candles also have their own special significance. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday.

- The first candle is traditionally the candle of **Hope**. This draws attention to the anticipation of the coming of an Anointed One, a Messiah that weaves its way through Old Testament history.
- The **second candle** is the candle of **Preparation**. Jesus is the messiah that God promised, and the prophets waited for.
- The **third candle** is the candle of **Joy** - the angels sang a message of JOY!
- The **fourth candle** is the candle of **Love**— the angels announced the good news of a Savior sent to us by God because He loves us! *"For God so loved the world..."* (John 3:16-17)
- The **center candle is white** and is called the **Christ Candle**. It is traditionally lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The central location of the Christ Candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world.

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

A Savior Is Coming

“‘The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.’ Jeremiah 33:14-16

For many centuries, the Israelites lived in hope that one-day God would send them a Savior. As we wait for Christmas, we wait in hope that Jesus is coming.

The first Advent candle stands for Hope.

Jesus is our hope. He died on the cross to save us and gives us everlasting life. **“The light of hope shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.”**

We light this candle for hope.

PRAY O Lord, our God, thank you for not leaving us in darkness but for sending your light into the world instead. Help us to shine your light in the dark and dreary corners of the world. May your light and love radiate from us and give hope where it seems that all hope is lost. Help us to be yours as we wait for you to come again. We love you. Amen.

SAY: Jesus called himself the Light of the World, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope he brought into a world filled with the darkness of sin.

ASK: What is hope?

EXPLAIN: Hope is looking forward to something wonderful. It’s expecting something good to happen. It’s light in the darkness.

SAY: This candle represents hope.

When Jesus came, he brought hope for people lost in sin.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: What are some things you hope for?

What are some ways your family can give hope to others?

What’s so hopeful about Jesus coming into the world?

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Recap:

- The first Advent candle is the candle of HOPE. Jesus is our hope. He died on the cross to save us and give us everlasting life. "The light of hope shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out." We light this candle for HOPE.

The Second Candle Is The Candle Of PREPARATION.

A voice of one calling in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation."
Isaiah 40:3

The second candle reminds us that God kept His promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to get ready.

We light this candle for the PREPARATION of a savior.

Prayer said by all:

Dear God, Thank you that you are always with us. Help us to prepare to welcome you, our Lord. Thank you for sending Jesus to die for our sins so that we can live with you forever. Amen

ASK: What is preparation?

EXPLAIN: When we prepare, it means that we are doing things to get ready for an upcoming event.

LIGHT the first and second candles of your wreath.

SAY These candles represent hope and preparation. When Jesus came, he reminded us that God keeps his promises.

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

What is something that your family is preparing for right now?

What are a few of the things that you are doing to help?

What are some things that your family can do to prepare your hearts for Jesus?

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Recap:

- The first Advent candle is the candle of HOPE. Jesus is our hope. He died on the cross to save us and give us everlasting life. “The light of hope shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.” We light this candle for hope (lights the first candle)
- The second candle is the candle of PREPARATION. God kept His promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. We light this candle for preparation. (lights the Second candle)

The Third Candle Is the Candle of JOY. (PINK)

The miracle of Christmas is that even though there is so much sadness in the world, the joy of Christ deep within us can help us reach out to the sad, the suffering and the lonely.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:8-11

The Magi Are Filled with Joy: When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:10-11

We light this candle for JOY

PRAY O Lord, our God, thank you for sending Jesus to bring us salvation and restore our joy. We rejoice because he came to live with us and in us and through us. May the good news of great joy of Jesus’ coming be ever on our lips. Help us to be yours as we wait for you to come again. We love you. Amen.

SAY: Jesus is the Joy of our Salvation, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope, preparation for a savior, and the joy of salvation he brought to a lost and broken world.

ASK: What is joy?

EXPLAIN: Joy is a feeling of great happiness. It’s pure bliss. It’s overwhelming gladness bubbling up in your soul. LIGHT the first, second, and third candles of your wreath.

SAY: These candles represent hope, preparation, and joy. When Jesus came, he brought joy to our hearts.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: What brings you joy? What part of the Christmas story brings the most joy?

What are some ways that our family can bring joy to others this Christmas?

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Recap:

- The first Advent candle is the candle of HOPE. Jesus is our hope. He died on the cross to save us and give us everlasting life. “The light of hope shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.” We light this candle for hope (lights the first candle)
- The second candle is the candle of PREPARATION. God kept His promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. We light this candle for preparation.
- The third candle is the candle of JOY. Jesus is our Joy. The joy of Christ deep within us can help us reach out to the sad, the suffering and the lonely. We light this candle for JOY

The Fourth Candle Is the Candle of LOVE.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Jesus is our LOVE. He is with us always and loves us unconditionally through all the events in our lives – in birth and death, in joy and sorrow.

We light this candle for LOVE

PRAY O Lord, our God, thank you for your unfailing, steadfast love. Thank you for loving us enough to die for us. Help us to love you with our whole hearts. Enable us to love our neighbors with your great love. Help us to be yours as we wait for you to come again. We love you. Amen.

SAY: Jesus is the demonstration of God’s love, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope, preparation for a savior, joy of salvation, and overwhelming love he brought to us.

ASK: What is love?

EXPLAIN: Love is when you care more about others than yourself. It is a sacrifice. The Bible tells us that God is love.

LIGHT the first, second, third and fourth candles of your wreath.

SAY: These candles represent hope, preparation, joy, and love. When Jesus came, he showed us how much God loves us.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Do you love anyone enough to die for them? What are some ways we can show God’s love to one another? To our neighbors? To our friends?

Christmas Eve

The white Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

As we light the **Christ** candle, celebrating the end of Advent and the arrival of **Christ** and Christmas, let us remember how our savior came once as a lowly baby, that the world through him might be saved, and how he will return one day in glory.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:9-11

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

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Pray – Heavenly Father, we thank you for your mystery of the Incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us. Help us receive the Light of Christ in our hearts and share it generously and joyfully in our families and communities. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

Amen