



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged: three purple candles and one pink candle. In the center of the wreath sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. In the evenings of Advent, as the appropriate candles are lit, an accompanying scripture should be read to recall the anticipation of the Christ.

During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle represents HOPE. In this lighting, we join with the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ, and longed for the coming Messiah with great expectation and anticipation.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is also lit. This candle typically represents PEACE. Here we remember God, through Christ, offers peace to all humanity. His burden is easy and his yoke is light.

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit along with the first two purple candles. This pink candle is customarily represents JOY. During this week of advent, be sure to exhibit joy in some way.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the fourth and last purple candle is also lit. This last purple candle represents LOVE. For God so loved the world that Immanuel – God is with us. May we also love the world.

On Christmas Eve, all five candles, including the white center candle are lit. The white candle is the "Christ Candle" and represents the light of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents Christ's purity.