

ADVENT BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS



The purpose of this activity is to pray in a special way to prepare your family's hearts to receive Christ at Christmas. Below are special prayers to offer throughout the season. Pray each as you light the candles on your Advent wreath. If you don't have one, you can make a simple one with some evergreen leaves and four candles.

First Sunday of Advent

Leader: "A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! ... Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Isaiah 40: 3, 5). Lord God, we gather around this wreath and wait and prepare for Your coming once again into our lives. As we light this candle, send forth Your Holy Spirit, who alone can dispel the darkness of our sin and fill us with the light of Your Son, Jesus the Christ. Bless this wreath and our lives as we wait in joyful hope for Your coming.
All respond: Amen.

Light one purple candle tonight and each night of the first week of Advent. Then pray:

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!
All respond: Come, quickly!

Second Sunday of Advent

Leader: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone... For a Child is born to us, a Son is given to us; upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9: 1, 6). Father, you loved us so much that you sent light into our darkness – your only Son Jesus. As we light this second candle tonight, may it be a reminder for us of Your everlasting love and Your promise that You will always be with us. Help us to wait with expectant hearts for the fullness of Your kingdom.
All respond: Amen.

Light two purple candles tonight and each night of this second week of Advent. Then pray:

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!
All respond: Come, quickly!

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Third Sunday of Advent

Leader: “Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them...” (Luke 2: 8, 9). Lord, as the days grow shorter and the darkness envelopes the earth, this night we light three candles as a sign of hope and joy that soon Christmas will once again be upon us. We are reminded that as You surprised the shepherds with Your glorious light, Your coming always surprises us with joy.

All respond: Amen.

Light two purple candles and the pink candle tonight and each night of this third week of Advent. Then pray:

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!

All respond: Come, quickly!

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leader: “And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests’” (Luke 2: 13, 14). Father, as we light this fourth candle we join with the heavenly hosts giving praise to You for the gift of Your Son Jesus. He is Emmanuel – God with us! Help us in these final days of preparation to renew once again our desire to receive Jesus as the Lord and Savior of our lives. Fill us with praise as we draw near to the celebration of His birth.

All respond: Amen.

Light three purple candles and the pink candle tonight and each night of this fourth week of Advent. Then pray:

Leader: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!

All respond: Come, quickly!

You may end each evening’s prayer by singing the following song to the melody of *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*:

O Savior, rend the heavens wide. Come down, come down with mighty stride. Unlock the gates, the doors break down. Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.

Or you may sing a verse from the song *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*.